





Welcome

eventy-five years ago, the struggle to expel Axis forces from the Italian peninsula was coming to a brutal crescendo, as German Fallschirmjäger units dug in to blunt the Allied advance. The focus of this uphill struggle soon became Monte Cassino, a 6th century monastery perched in the Abruzzo mountains, and a strongpoint in the German defensive lines.

Among the Allied assaults on this position was the Polish II Corps. Known as Anders' Army, these soldiers had travelled from the USSR, across the Middle

East, and through the Desert Rat frontline in North Africa. In the Italian Campaign, the Poles faced their greatest challenge yet, and a chance to strike back at their enemy.



Tim Williamson Editor-in-Chief

CONTRIBUTORS

TOM GARNER

On page 38 Royal Artillery and Falklands War veteran Tom Martin shares his experience manning the guns on East Falkland during the 1982 conflict, revealing the vital role artillery played in enabling the successful campaign.

MARIANNA BUKOWSKI

This issue Marianna spoke with Polish veteran Otton Hulacki of the 4th 'Skorpion' Armoured Regiment. He recalls fighting at Monte Cassino, as well as his long journey from captivity in the USSR, to serving in Wladyslaw Anders's Army (p.26).

STUART HADAWAY

RAF Senior Researcher Stuart takes a look at the racer origins of the Spitfire for this issue's Operator's Handbook. Turn to page 70 to discover how the S.6B sea plane broke speed records and set the blueprints for the iconic fighter.









Frontline

14 Irish War of Independence

The Irish Republican Army mounts a fierce guerrilla war in a bid to end British rule

18 Bloody Sunday: 1920

An assassination and subsequent British crackdown resulted in a brutal day of violence

20 Breaking up the UK

The Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 was a previously unthinkable victory for irregular rebel forces over the might of the British Empire

22 A nation divided

Revisionist Peter Cottrell discusses how nationalism has influenced the popular understanding of the Anglo-Irish conflict

24 Leaders & commanders

On both sides of the Irish Sea, the struggle for an independent Eire forged and destroyed the careers of politicians and generals

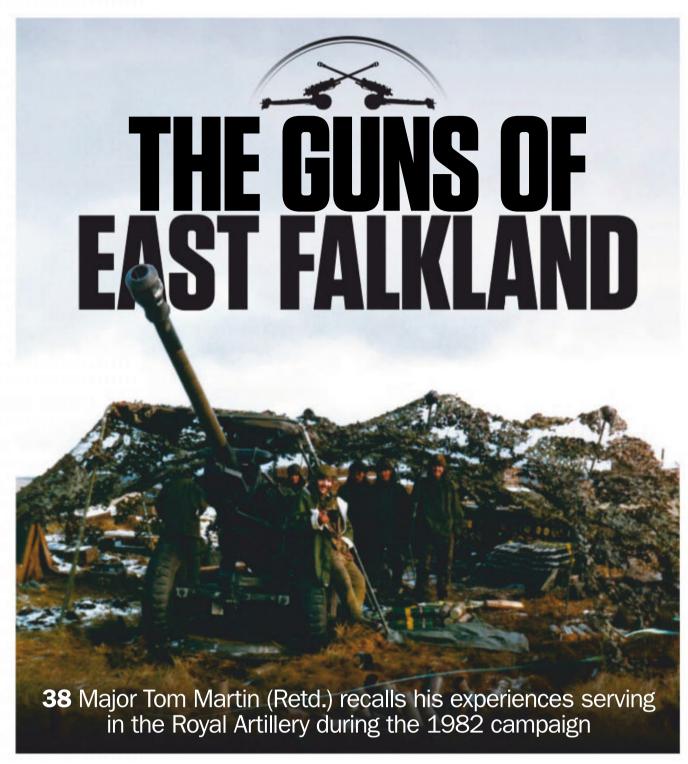
Subscribe

Receive a free book worth £19.99 with every History of War subscription! Plus receive the mag before it's available in the shops

KANAKAJIMA

62 Two powerful clans clash for dominance in Japan's destructive civil war







06 WAR IN FOCUS

Stunning imagery from throughout history

26 Poland's revenge at Monte Cassino

Read how the Polish II Corps marched from Soviet captivity to the frontline in Italy

38 The guns of East Falkland

Crucial Royal Artillery role in the 1982 war

48 Carlist Wars: Part II the 'Carlist State'

Spain's third civil war of the 19th century threatened to break the country apart

54 The Great Count

How Roger de Hauteville conquered Sicily

58 The Great Escape in rare photos

Previously unseen images of Stalag Luft III

62 GREAT BATTLES

Kawanakajima

Blow-by-blow of this samurai showdown

70 OPERATOR'S HANDBOOK Supermarine S.6b

The racing plane origins of the Spitfire

76 VICTORIA CROSS HEROES

William La Touche Congreve

Inspiring story of heroism at the Somme

HUMEFEURY HUMEFEURT

82 Redefining Napoleon

Adam Zamoyski reassesses the Emperor ahead of his talk at the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival

88 Museums & events

The latest exhibitions and discoveries

90 Reviews

A round-up of the latest military titles

94 5 best books on...

The Anders Army

95 COMPETITION

Win a book bundle worth over £120

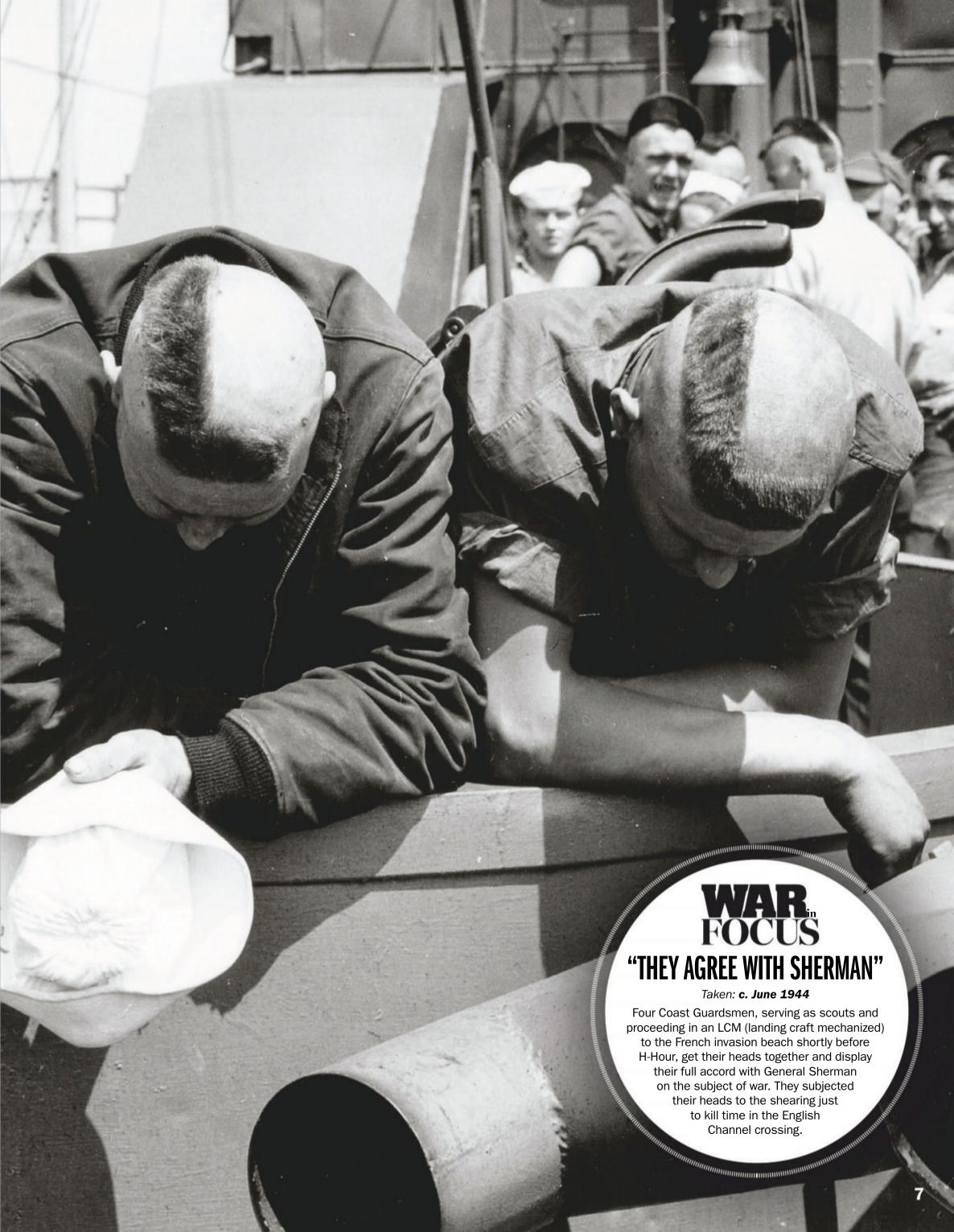
A fantastic chance to win a stack of history titles, exclusive to Subscribers

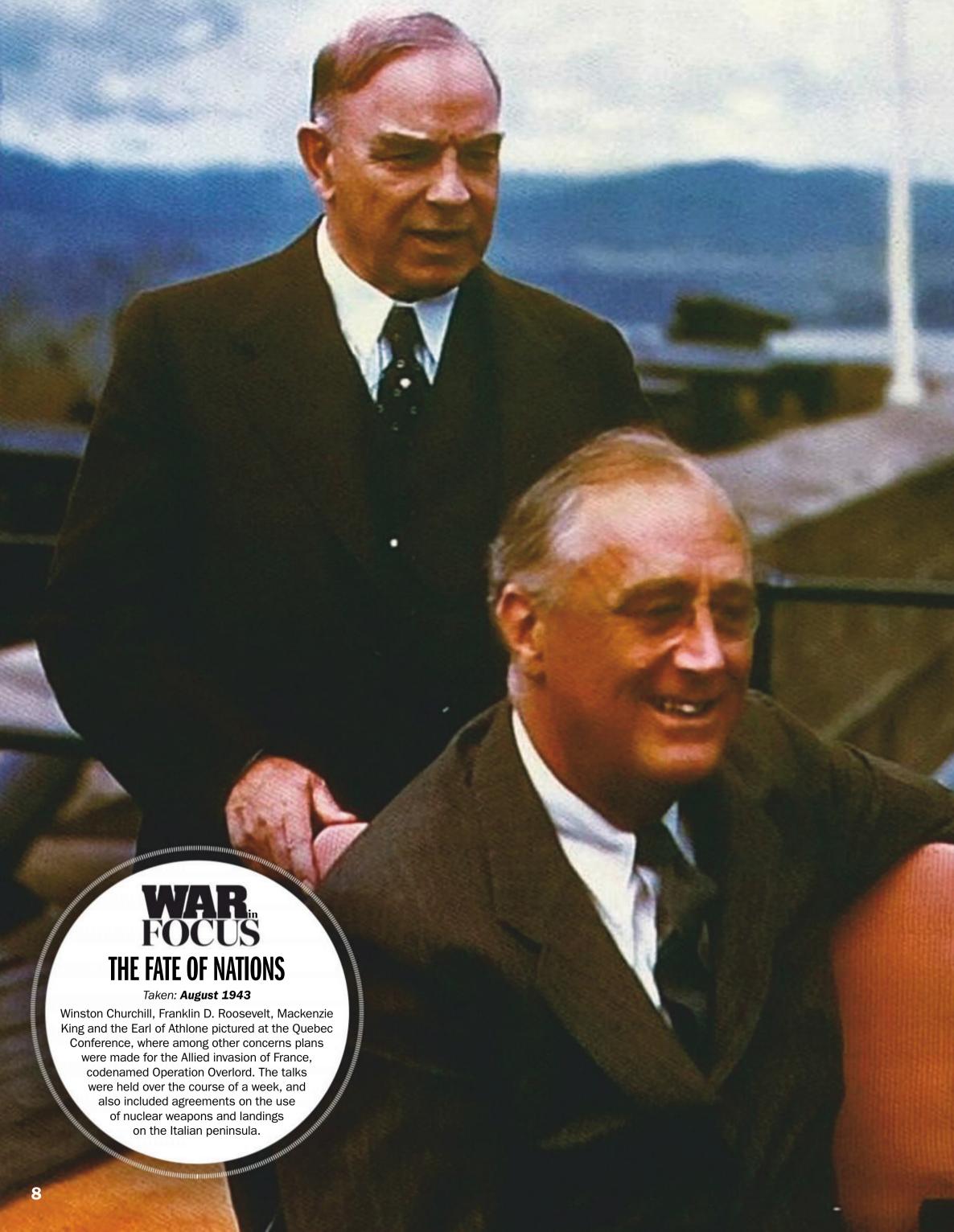
98 ARTEFACT OF WAR

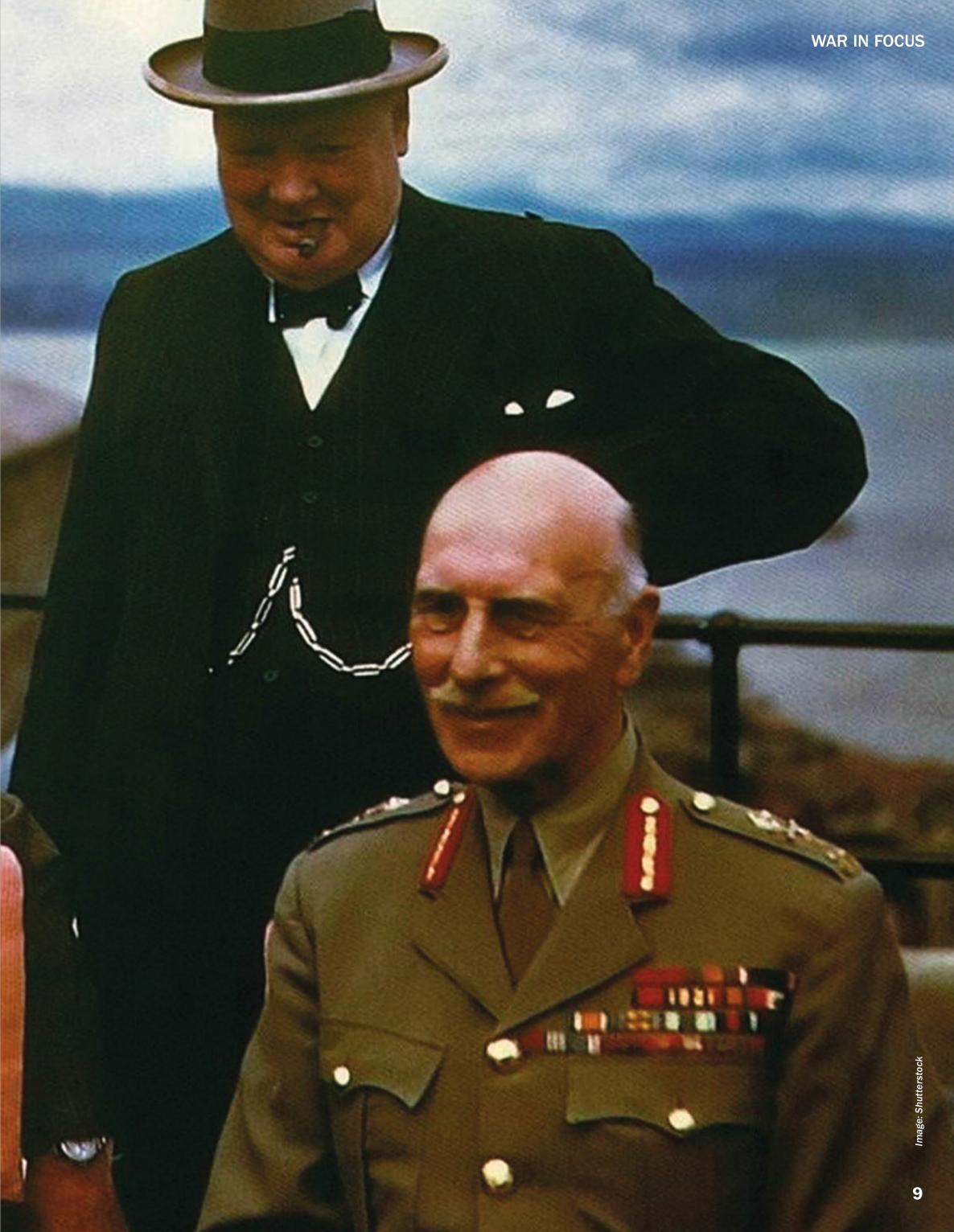
Sir John Moore's pocketwatch

Read how this precious timepiece survived the Peninsula War



















21 January 1919

TARGETING THE RIC **SOLOHEADBEG AMBUSH**

> A government proclamation offering a reward of £1,000 for information regarding those involved in the Soloheadbeg

Ambush

The first engagement of the war sees the Irish Volunteers attacking RIC officers. The policemen are escorting a consignment of gelignite, which is seized by their attackers along with their weapons. Two members of the RIC are killed during the ambush.



ONE THOUSAND POUNDS

THREE HUNDRED POUNDS

FREE PARDON

The newly formed Irish Republican Army (IRA) immediately focuses on killing officers of the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC), particularly in the provinces. Over 500 are killed, which enables the IRA to increase their political authority in outlying areas of Ireland.

1919-22

RIC officers pictured in Waterford. The vast majority of the 9,700 men who police for the British are Irishmen



13 May 1919

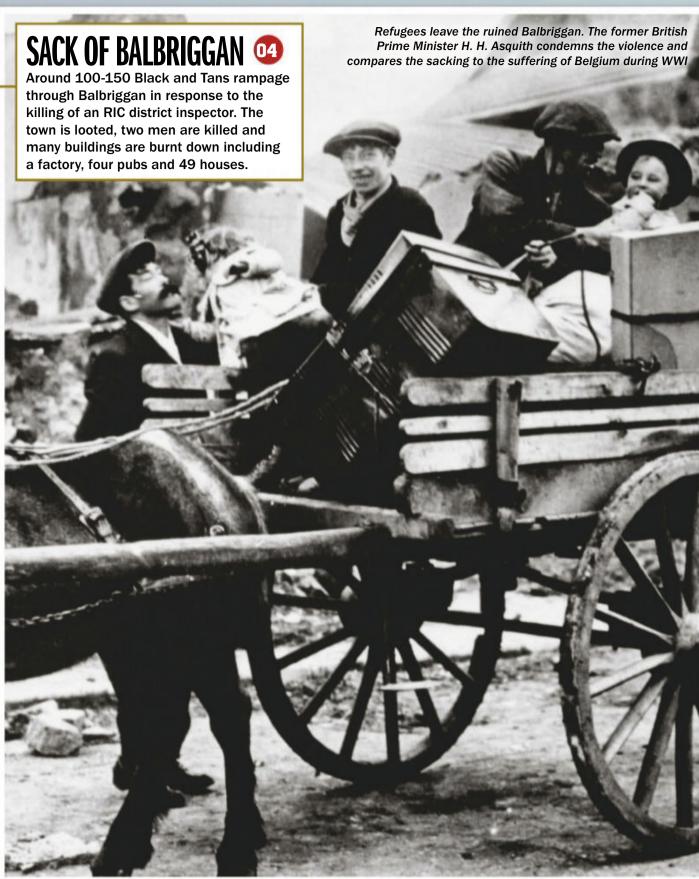
RESCUE AT KNOCKLONG **3**

A captured IRA member, Seán Hogan, is rescued from a train by his comrades while being guarded by four armed RIC officers. Hogan is due to be executed but his rescue boosts morale for the Irish republican cause. Two policemen are killed and several IRA volunteers wounded.

Seán Hogan becomes the IRA commander of the 3rd Tipperary Brigade flying column after his rescue







21 September 1920

March 1920



ENTER THE BLACK AND TANS

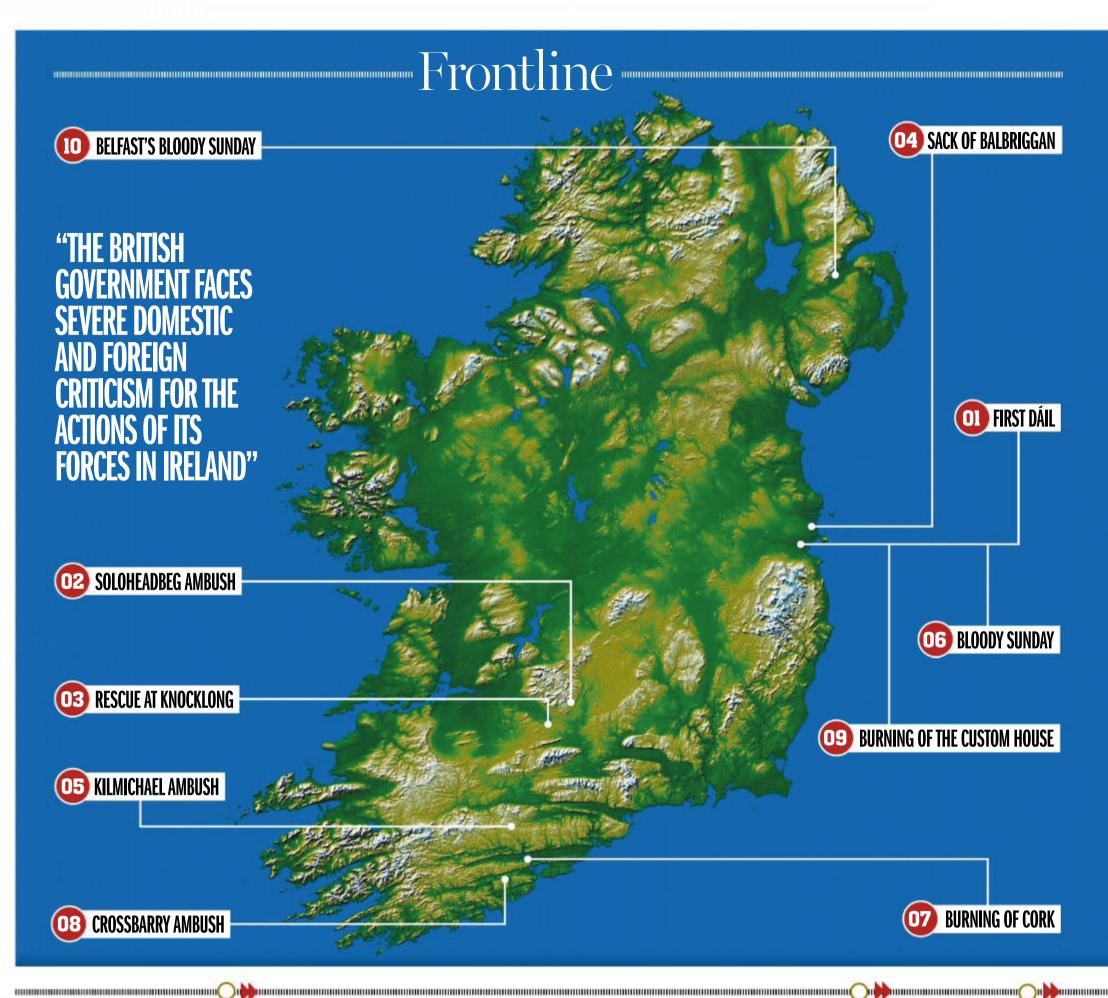
The British deploy the regular army to Ireland in greater numbers and establish two paramilitary police units to aid the beleaguered RIC. Collectively known as the 'Black and Tans', thousands of these temporary constables are ex-British servicemen who gain an infamously violent reputation.



28 November 1920

KILMICHAEL AMBUSH ©

Thirty six IRA volunteers of the 3rd (West) Cork Brigade destroy an entire patrol of 17 members of the **RIC Auxiliary Division.** There is only one wounded RIC survivor and the ambush shocks the British forces who wreak revenge. The area around Kilmichael is torched and three **IRA** volunteers are arrested, beaten and killed.



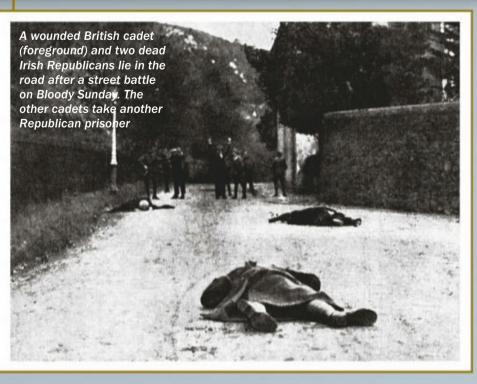
21 November 1920

11-12 December 1920

19 March 1921

BLOODY SUNDAY 003

Dublin suffers a day of violence when 32 people are killed across the city, including **British soldiers** and policemen, Irish civilians and Republican prisoners. Many more are wounded but the violence is considered a victory for the IRA because of the damage done to British intelligence operations.



BURNING - OF CORK OD

Following an IRA ambush at Dillon's Cross, British soldiers, Auxiliaries and **Black and Tans loot and** burn buildings in Cork city centre. Firefighters are intimidated and the damage is significant. Over 40 business premises, 300 residential properties, the Carnegie Library and the city hall are destroyed. 2,000 civilians are left jobless and many more become homeless.

CROSSBARRY AMBUSH 03

One of the largest engagements of the war occurs when 104 IRA volunteers fight 1,200 British troops and Auxiliaries who attempt to encircle them. The IRA not only successfully escapes in an hourlong engagement but also inflict ten fatalities on the British for the loss of only three men.



10 July 1921

July-December 1921

25 May 1921

killed while the British

The capture of so many

blow to the republicans.

suffer only four wounded.

volunteers is a significant

TRUCE

BURNING OF THE CUSTOM HOUSE The conflict reaches a military **Approximately 120 IRA** stalemate while the British government faces severe volunteers occupy a key domestic and foreign criticism building of the British for the actions of its forces in administration in Ireland. Although the occupation is Ireland. Peace talks are proposed to Sinn Féin, which are a significant propaganda accepted and a truce coup, the action turns into a is declared. military disaster when British forces arrive and the Custom House is destroyed by fire. King George V is **Around 70-80 IRA members** instrumental in calling are captured and five are

for a reconciliatory truce along with British Prime Minister David Lloyd George and South African Prime Minister Jan Smuts



Irish delegates pictured with the treaty including Michael Collins (centre), Arthur Griffith (far left) and Erskine Childers (centre, standing), the author of The Riddle Of The Sands

......

6 December 1921

ANGLO-IRISH TREATY

Peace talks in London result in an important treaty. The country is partitioned between Northern Ireland, which chooses to remain in the United Kingdom, and the newly created Irish Free State. The Free State comprises of 26 of the 32 counties of Ireland and is established as a selfgoverning dominion within the British Empire. George V remains the head of state and this continued and contentious connection with Britain results in the even bloodier Irish Civil War.

Images: Alamy, Getty



he war between the rival intelligence services of the Irish Republican
Army and the British authorities was vicious, and never more so than on the morning of Bloody Sunday.

The British intelligence network was considered a major threat to the Irish independence cause. Many of the British operatives, including the famed 'Cairo Gang', had honed their skills during World War I, especially in the Middle East. Now they threatened to cripple the efforts of the IRA to further the cause of Irish independence.

As director of intelligence for the IRA, Michael Collins put together a plan to destroy that intelligence network. Using information from a variety of sources, data was gathered on the secret whereabouts of Britain's undercover operatives. More than 50 targets were initially identified, but this was whittled down to 35 by the time the operation was ready to proceed.

The operation was seen as retaliation for British acts including the killing of John Lynch at the Exchange Hotel in Dublin the previous September. Collins himself would later claim that he had no qualms about ordering the killings, "For myself, my conscience is clear," he insisted. "There is no crime in detecting and destroying in war-time, the spy and the informer. They have destroyed without trial. I have paid them back in their own coin."

Maximum impact

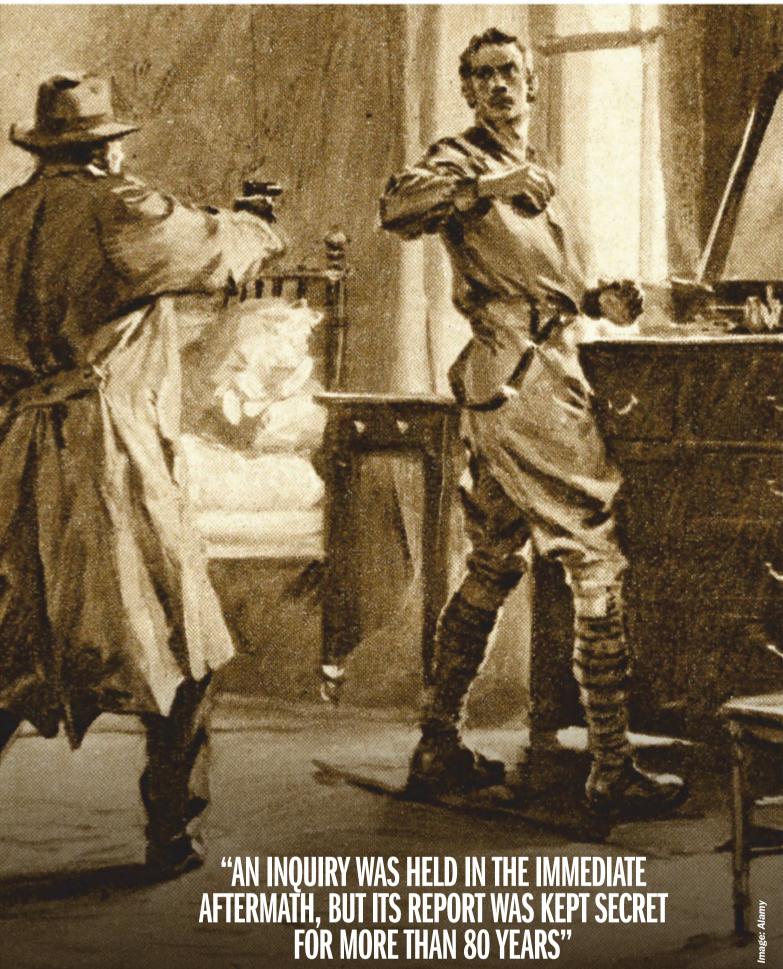
To add to the impact of the operation, Collins determined to eliminate each target at exactly the same time, in a series of coordinated attacks. Although this would undoubtedly be more impactful than a string of smaller-scale actions, it raised a problem in terms of resources. Collins's own 'Twelve Apostles', the team of gunmen he had created, was far too small for such a huge operation, so more

volunteers had to be drafted in. Inevitably this meant that some of the men involved had never taken a life before.

Details on the targets to be killed were not provided to the gunmen until the last moment. Many struggled to sleep the night before, not knowing where they would be going in the morning but knowing they would have deadly work to do when they got there.

One such man, 17-year-old Charles Dalton, remembered being "wrought up, thinking of what we had to do the next morning".

At 9am on Sunday 21 November coordinated raids took place at multiple addresses in Dublin. Despite the painstaking gathering of evidence, many of the 35 targets were not at home when the hit squads arrived, but 14 men were killed, nine of them still in their pyjamas and some shot in front of their wives. One target was saved when a nervous gunman opened fire on his own reflection in



a mirror, alerting the British officer and giving him chance to escape. Several others were wounded rather than killed (one of these men died later), testament to the nervousness of some of the men involved.

Inevitably the British authorities claimed the men killed had been regular army officers rather than undercover intelligence operatives, but Collins remained convinced that most, if not all of the men attacked had been spies.

The Croke Park massacre

Following the stunning series of attacks, the British retaliated later the same day. Claiming that many of the IRA men involved had come into Dublin on the pretext of attending a Gaelic football match, they sent a mixed force of RIC, auxiliaries and regular troops to Croke Park. The stadium was surrounded and the crowd was ordered to leave in an orderly fashion through the three exits. Anyone trying to leave

through any other route would be shot and all males would be searched.

It is unclear how shooting broke out, but whoever fired first, it was the British forces who fired with the most effect. A total of 12 civilians were killed, including one of the football players and three children, aged 10, 11 and 14. A further 60 civilians were wounded.

An inquiry was held in the immediate aftermath, but its report was kept secret for more than 80 years. When released it revealed that 228 rounds of small arms fire had been expended by the British forces, and 50 rounds had been fired by an armoured car at the St James's Avenue exit from the stadium (although these were fired above the crowd as a warning).

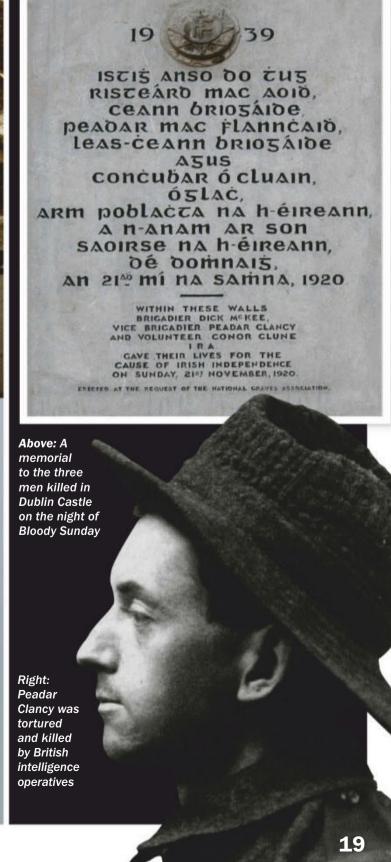
The report further claimed that it was RIC personnel that had been responsible for most of the firing and that it had been "carried out without orders and in excess of what was required".

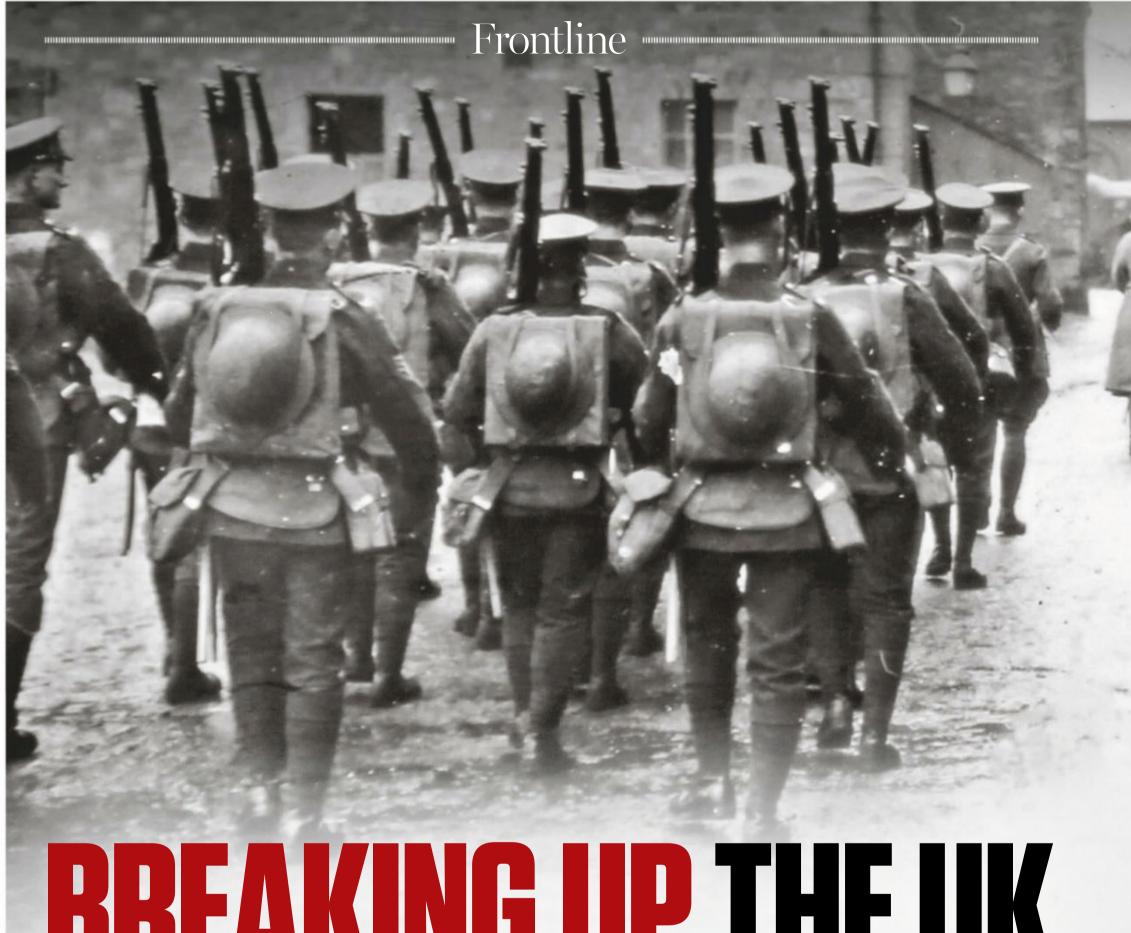
DEATH IN THE CASTLE

THE KILLING CONTINUED EVEN AFTER THE MASSACRE AT CROKE PARK

The impact of Bloody Sunday was felt on both sides. Several of the gunmen involved on the IRA side left the organisation and never served again. Three of the drivers used to ferry men to their targets later suffered nervous breakdowns, while an auxiliary cadet in Dublin Castle, already traumatised by his experiences in World War I, committed suicide that evening.

The day also claimed three more victims after the killings in Dublin and at Croke Park. Dick McKee, probably second only to Collins in terms of importance to the IRA, was picked up by British intelligence operatives along with Peadar Clancy and a student named Conor Clune. The three were taken to Dublin Castle, where they were tortured through the night and killed the next day. Their deaths brought the total death toll of Bloody Sunday to 30.





BREAKINGUPTHEUK

Unorthodox fighting methods used by the severely outnumbered IRA forced the British Empire to permanently divide its home country

he British Empire was at its zenith in 1921. Under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, Britain had acquired huge parts of the Middle Last and Africa, but it was at this moment of its territorial peak that the world's largest empire began to disintegrate. Although it was not obvious at the time, the direct cause of imperial decline was within the United Kingdom itself.

Ireland had been an integral part of the UK since 1801 with a British presence that dated back to the 12th century. Nevertheless. despite centuries of unsuccessful rebellions, it was the Irish War of Independence that dealt a severe blow to Britain during a remarkable military campaign.

Intelligence and Flying Columns

On paper the IRA had little hope of defeating British forces. Two army divisions were based in Ireland during the war and troop numbers rose to 50,000 soldiers by July 1921. The army was extensively supported by the RIC and its paramilitary police forces who also numbered in their thousands. By contrast the IRA claimed to have a total strength of 70,000 but in reality only approximately 3,000 volunteers actively fought against the Crown.

Nevertheless the IRA were eventually called to the negotiating table and this achievement was largely due to military pragmatism. Unlike previous Republican uprisings, the IRA were led by realists who achieved results that were disproportionate to their resources.

Intelligence was the most crucial factor of the conflict and Michael Collins organised the IRA war on business lines by prioritising the targeting of policemen, government agents and informers. He knew that the conflict was unequal and so eliminating spies was an effective way of grinding down the British war machine. By denying them proper intelligence, the British could not form a clear strategy against the IRA, which resulted in a frustrating, ambiguous campaign. Events such as Bloody Sunday were also of great propaganda value to Collins who could use British heavy-handedness as a weapon to swing public opinion.

Nevertheless the IRA also had a surprisingly effective fighting wing that was suited to the unique circumstances of the conflict. Because

National Army soldiers of the Irish Free State take over Richmond Barracks from departing British soldiers

Michael Collins and Richard Mulcahy (right) were crucial to the success of the IRA's intelligence and military operations Even worse for a proud imperial power, the

Ireland was one of the home countries of the UK, the British could not use military methods that would have been acceptable in imperial colonies. This made the country an ideal ground for highly organised guerrilla fighting. The IRA managed to develop an army out of scattered rebels and fostered the development of 'Flying Columns'. Numbering 20-100 men per unit, these mobile, armed volunteers

characterised the military campaign against the British. Field commanders were encouraged to think for themselves and learn from each encounter with the enemy. This independence bore fruit in several successful ambushes, particularly at Kilmichael in November 1920 when a patrol of RIC Auxiliaries was destroyed.

Although this event was militarily a small affair, the Kilmichael Ambush was a shock to the British. Occurring only a week after Bloody Sunday, the government became increasingly convinced that they were dealing with a rebel army as opposed to a gang of murderers who committed political crimes. The Flying Columns' activities, particularly in counties such as Cork, prevented British authority from fully functioning and they were often aided by the public who provided safe houses and supplies.

The truce and Anglo-Irish Treaty that followed in 1921 was perceived as something of a diplomatic success for the British. David Lloyd George believed that he had solved the 'Irish Question' by partitioning the island while keeping the Free State under the Crown and within the Empire. Negotiations were called on his terms and he had threatened "instant and

a limited amount of independence in 26 of Ireland's 32 counties. Covert guerrilla warfare had broken up the UK for the first time and the partitioned border continues to plague Irish politics. The success of the IRA also inspired other insurgencies against the British Empire during the 20th century, which partially led to its irrevocable decline. It is consequently perhaps no surprise that the historian Richard Bennett labelled the Irish War of Independence as one that "the English have struggled to forget and the Irish cannot help but remember".



ANAIGH BHUET

Revisionist historian Peter Cottrell explains how the conflict, and the subsequent civil war, can be explained as a struggle between two very different visions of an Irish nation

Was the result of the war, and the effective breakup the UK with the Partition, due to British strategic blunders, or an effective Irish military campaign?

It is important to remember that until 1922, Ireland was an integral part of UK, which made British politicians extremely sensitive about any bad publicity resulting from security operations. That doesn't mean that British security operations were ineffective – they were not. By 1922, the IRA's intelligence network was thoroughly compromised and the IRA's Chief of Staff, Richard Mulcahy, told the Dáil that the IRA was incapable of defeating the British Army. That is why Michael Collins signed the Treaty, because the IRA couldn't win.

Did British policy in Ireland, both before and after the war, make the ensuing Civil War inevitable? Which other factors had an impact?

In many respects the entire conflict from 1913-23 was a civil war, as it was fought by Irishmen on both sides with radically different views of how Ireland should be governed. By 1921 the reality was that the IRA was losing the war. Whilst the British were not winning, the treaty represented an acceptable compromise that allowed the violence to end. The treaty did not make civil war inevitable, the failure of a minority within the IRA to accept the result

of the 1922 General Election did. Ironically, it also made a united Ireland even less appealing to Irish Unionists and opened divisions in Irish society that persist to this day.

What effect did Irish Nationalism have both on the progression of the war, and how it has been subsequently remembered by history?

Of course, Nationalism was a significant factor in the conflict, but it is important to draw a distinction between Nationalism and Republicanism. Nationalists fought on both sides. Over 200,000 Irishmen fought in WWI. The majority were Catholic, as were most Irish policemen, as were a significant number of the soldiers who put down the Easter Rising. Few of these men went on to join the IRA, but many did go on to join the British security forces and later the newly raised Irish National Army. These inconvenient truths were airbrushed out of the nationalist narrative because they fundamentally undermine the argument that the conflict was a straight forward struggle for liberation from an oppressive colonial power.

Why is the Anglo-Irish War far less understood or remembered in the UK than in Ireland?

The conflict has been overshadowed by the much greater events of 1914-18 and whilst it may be better remembered in Ireland, it is a

rather over-simplified version of events that has been perpetuated. I suspect that this is because neither side covered themselves in glory. The war consisted more of gunmen operating in the shadows than soldiers fighting pitched battles. From a British perspective the Troubles were a law and order issue as the army was much more focussed on operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, where 200,000 troops were engaged in far bloodier counterinsurgencies. Ironically, despite more recent operations in both these areas, these conflicts have also largely been forgotten too.

Many are of the opinion that the war signalled the beginning of the end of the British Empire – do you agree with this?

While the stresses and strains of winning the Great War began the process, the Empire grew after the war. It was the Statute of Westminster (1931) that loosened control over the Dominions' internal affairs as a reward for support during the Great War, rather than the Anglo-Irish War, that began the process of unravelling the Empire. This process accelerated after WWII as a result of increasing pressure from the USA. During this period, Eire remained a Dominion within the Empire until it became a Republic in 1949 by the mutual consent of both the Irish and British governments.



nages: Gettv. Alamy



LEADERS & COMMANDERS

Finding a consensus on how to approach the conflict was difficult to find for both sides

MP AND KEY FIGURE IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE IRA 1890-1922 IRISH FREE STATE, IRA, NATIONAL ARMY

Born in County Cork, Collins lived and worked in London for nine years before returning to his native Ireland and joining Sinn Féin. As a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood he took part in the Easter Rising of 1916, spending a short time in prison afterwards.

In the 1918 general election Collins was elected as MP for South Cork and became minister of home affairs in the Dáil Éireann. As a leading figure in the Irish Republican Army, Collins organised resistance to the British security forces, most famously setting up his 'squad' of gunmen, also known as the 'Twelve Apostles'. With the events of Bloody Sunday helping force the British to the negotiating table, Collins was in favour of the agreement that partitioned Ireland and took the role of chairman of the provisional government.

During the civil war that followed partition, Collins found himself in conflict with a faction of the IRA that opposed the treaty with Britain and the splitting up of the island. He commanded the Free State army and was assassinated during an ambush on 22 August 1922.

> "WITH THE EVENTS OF BLOODY SUNDAY HELPING FORCE THE BRITISH TO

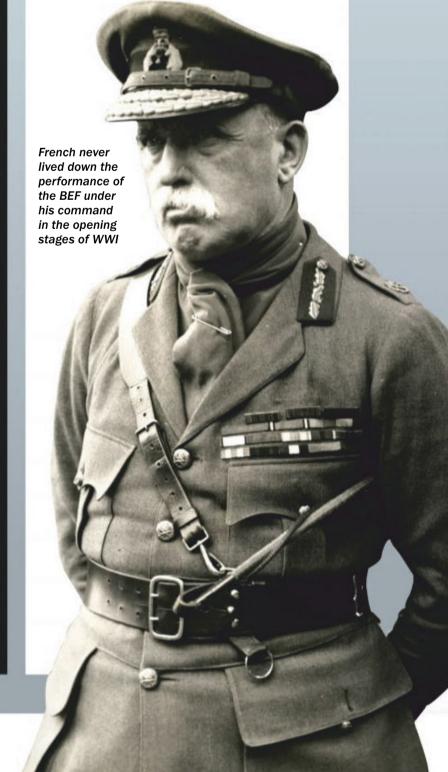
> > Left: Michael Collins was one of the prominent leaders of the Irish Free State until his death in 1922



The bombarding of the Four Courts Dublin: supposedly ordered by Coll

JOHN FRENCH LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND 1852-1925 UNITED KINGDOM, BRITISH ARMY

Although most famous for his leadership of the **British Expeditionary Force during World War** I, French played a prominent role in the War of Independence. Having served in Sudan and India, he caught the attention of the public as a cavalry officer in the Second Boer War. As lord lieutenant of Ireland (from 1918), French consistently favoured harsh measures, including the introduction of conscription into the British Army for Irishmen. He failed to accurately gauge levels of support for Sinn Féin, but was in favour of Irish home rule as long as it was achieved peacefully. As violence continued he pushed for the implementation of martial law in late 1919 and voiced the opinion that hunger strikers should be allowed to die. He resigned his position in April 1921.



HENKY HUGH TUDOR POLICE CHIEF WHO BELIEVED A FIRM HAND WAS NEEDED IN IRELAND 1871-1965 UNITED KINGDOM, BRITISH ARMY

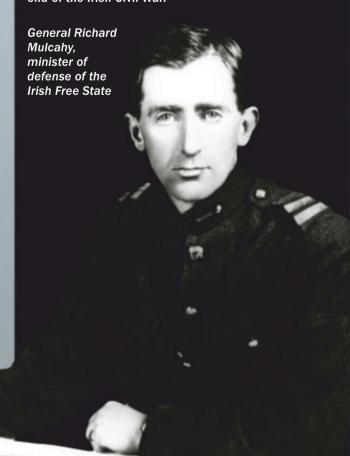


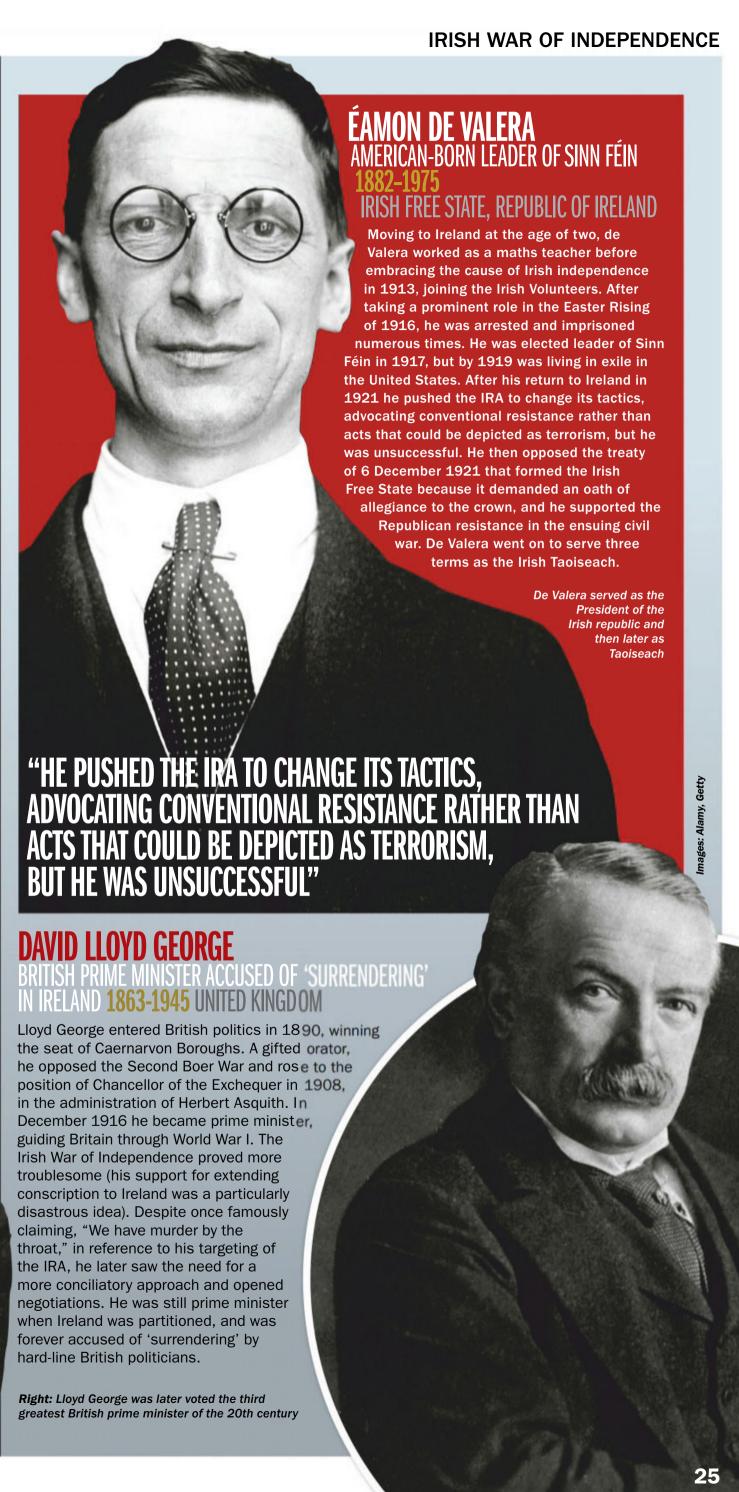
The son of a parish rector, Tudor fought in India, where he met Winston Churchill and made a firm (and influential) friend for life. Tudor also saw service in the Boer War and World War I, climbing through the ranks from captain to major general on the Western Front. Named 'police advisor' in Dublin in May 1920, Tudor pushed for an uncompromising response to Irish agitation and militarised the Royal Irish Constabulary. Under Tudor's command former British servicemen were recruited into the infamous 'Black and Tans' unit that became a scourge of the Irish population, and Tudor's reputation suffered as a result. Following the end of the Irish War of Independence, Tudor served in Palestine and Newfoundland.

RICHARD MULCAHY QUIETLY SPOKEN LEADER WHO KEPT OUT OF THE LIMELIGHT 1886-1971

IRISH FREE STATE, IRA, NATIONAL ARMY

Though largely overshadowed by the mammoth figure of Michael Collins, Mulcahy was a hugely important figure in the Irish War of Independence. He joined the Irish Republican Brotherhood in 1908 and then the Irish Volunteers in 1913, rising to the position of commandant of the Dublin Brigade in August 1917. By 1918 he was the chief-of-staff at GHQ. A strong admirer of Collins, he often defended him when the firebrand overstepped the boundaries of his own positions, but his own reputation remains low-key thanks to his modesty and lack of personal ambition. He served in several prominent positions in the Irish government, including minister for education, after the end of the Irish Civil War.





PULANU'S KEVEN ATNOTE GASSIN

WORDS MARIANNA BUKOWSKI

To secure Allied victory the Polish II Corps travelled across three continents to bre k the German Gustav Line and raise the Polish flag at the summit of Monastery Hill

ruins of the Abbey, the Polish II Corps faced a harrowing battlefield

Beneath the bombed







POLAND'S REVENGE AT MONTE CASSINO

Soldiers of many different nations courageously fought to conquer the Cassino massif - which has since taken on a near mythical significance

27

n the spring of 1944 the German defence across the Italian peninsula, The Gustav Line, proved impenetrable. To help secure Allied victory and open up the road to Rome, General Wladyslaw Anders led the Polish II Corps, an army of soldiers that had survived Siberia, and travelled across the deserts of the Middle East, to reach their destiny... and raise the Polish flag at the summit of Monte Cassino.

Surviving Siberia

In 1940, when Otton Hulacki was 18, the NKVD came to his home in Lwow. Deportations of Poles began shortly after the Soviet invasion of eastern Poland in 1939, and few of the Poles sent to the desolate wastelands across the Soviet Union would ever see their homeland again. Hulacki's father was deported to a gulag in the Urals on the 10 April, two days later the Soviet Secret Police came back to deport young Hulacki along with his mother and siblings. The cattle car train journey took weeks. "But I was not in despair," Hulacki remembers, "As a young man, going into the unknown ... it was unpleasant but still a kind of adventure. Being sent to Siberia was something that many, many Poles had experienced... including Pilsudski."

Like so many of his generation, young

Jozef Pilsudski, the Marshal of Poland and the architect of Polish independence after 123 years of Partitions - times when generations of Poles under Russian rule had been deported to Siberia. Looking back, despite the dire situation, Hulacki also felt lucky because things could still have turned out much worse. As a sworn member of the Polish resistance since the very start of the war Hulacki's fear, like for most in the resistance, was to be interrogated and give up fellow members of his underground cell. "I have a high pain threshold, but..." Nobody knows if – and for how long – they would be able to withstand torture.

When Hulacki and his family arrived in Kazakhstan, how did they imagine their lives and future? "You don't have time to think. You have to organise. You must survive," he says. It is estimated that up to half of the approximately 1.5 million Poles deported had died from hard labour, disease and starvation by the time Operation Barbarossa began in 1941. As the Germans invaded the Soviet Union, the Soviets switched sides to join the Allies, and an amnesty was declared for all Poles on Soviet territory. In addition a Polish army was to be formed

under the command of General Wladyslaw Anders. Hulacki took courage and inspiration from "SINCE THE VERY START OF THE WAR HULACKI'S FEAR, LIKE FOR MOST IN THE RESISTANCE, WAS TO BE INTERROGATED AND GIVE UP FELLOW MEMBERS OF HIS UNDERGROUND CELL"



Following the amnesty, Hulacki was reunited with his father, but due to a miscalculation they travelled south, to the today almost dried up Aral Sea, where the shortage of food proved devastating. "I was dying from hunger, but at least I saw some of the world!" Hulacki says with characteristic humour. He believes his life was saved by eating a stew with dog meat. His father only told him what he had eaten once he had finished, and then asked what he thought of the meal. "It was good," young Hulacki answered. Only those that have not experienced real starvation, have the luxury to object to the idea.

Eventually, in March 1942, Hulacki was able to join the Polish 6th Armoured "Children of Lwow" Regiment, and together with fellow soldiers in Anders Army, left the Soviet Union.

Scorpions in the desert

Altogether around 114,000 soldiers and dependants travelled with Anders Army to Persia. The British were deeply shocked seeing this skeleton army – all in urgent need of healthcare, food, and later military training to be able to become a fighting force. In time many of the roughly 35,000 civilians would find refuge across the world, in Africa, India, Palestine and Mexico. The Polish II Corps was officially formed in July 1943 in Iraq, where it became part of the British 10th Army under the command of General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson.

The main problem for the Polish II Corps was the shortage of officers – too few had survived Soviet incarceration, something General Anders had become aware of much

earlier. The tenuous relationship with the Soviet Union was deteriorating again and the case of the missing officers – and later revelation of the Katyn Massacre – would end diplomatic relations altogether. Instead, young cadet officers were put into positions of responsibility above their rank. As their training intensified, the Polish II Corps was moved to Palestine in the late summer of 1943, where in September General Wilson pronounced them ready for action. With this began the next part of their journey, this time travelling to Egypt in preparation for their transfer to the new front lines in Italy.

Somewhere along the road in the desert, together with fellow soldiers in his unit, Hulacki watched with fascination as scorpions fought each other to death. "They fight like hell," he remembers. When the Polish 4th Armoured Regiment was being formed, which Hulacki would later join, their new emblem was a given, "A silver scorpion. Very beautiful," he recalls.

The transfer of Polish troops to Italy began in mid-December 1943 and took considerable time, as it was carried out using different routes and ports in smaller convoys, so as not to endanger the whole corps.

By April 1944 there were 50,000 Polish military in Italy. They were organised into the 3rd Carpathian Rifle Division and the 5th Kresy Infantry Division (both divisions had two, rather than three brigades) and the 2nd Armoured Brigade. There was also an artillery force, engineers and women volunteers – defined as soldiers on active service in the Polish Auxiliary Women's Service, similar to the British ATS.

Allies at Cassino

The Italian Campaign had opened in July 1943 as the Allied forces landed in Sicily, but as progress became slow through the mountainous terrain of southern Italy, it allowed German Field Marshal Kesselring time to build strong defensive lines. The Gustav Line was a set of fortifications crossing the peninsula and centred on the great Benedictine monastery of Monte Cassino. The Abbey was truly awe-inspiring and in its majestic setting also a natural defence position that dominated the surrounding area. From the viewpoint at the top of the massif, the Germans overlooked the entire Rapido and Liri Valleys below and had a clear view of Highway 6 – the road leading directly to Rome.

Since January 1944, men of many different nations fought to break through the German defence at Monte Cassino: the Americans, the French, with Moroccan and Algerian divisions, the British, yet each assault provoked devastating counterattacks from the Germans. The hillside was filled with dugouts, mortars and artillery, and whilst the monastery itself had not been fortified, it held not only a physical, but also a psychological hold over the troops.

For soldiers on both sides, "Cassino developed an emotional, almost mythical, significance," wrote British soldier Fred Majdalany. The bombing of the monastery by the US Airforce on 15 February remains controversial to this day. The stalemate following the second attack by the Indian and New Zealand divisions enabled the Germans to fortify the monastery ruins. After the third





THE FORMATION OF ANDERS ARMY

ESCAPING STALIN'S SIBERIAN GULAGS – HOW THE POLISH II CORPS TOOK ON AN ODYSSEY ACROSS THREE CONTINENTS

Enabled by the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, the Soviet Union followed Germany's lead and invaded Poland on the 17 September 1939, this time from the east. Caught between two occupiers set on the total destruction of Poland, the Poles were seen as a 'racial enemy' by the Germans, and a 'class enemy' by the Soviets. As Germany was still setting up the concentration camps that would later kill

millions, the Soviets, following the great terror and purges of the 1930s, already had a fully running system of gulag prison camps. Throughout all of Soviet-occupied Poland, the NKVD (Soviet Secret Police) immediately began the deportations of Poles to the uninhabitable wastelands of the gulag archipelago – effectively sentencing them to slow deaths from hard labour, disease and starvation.

Estimates vary, but around 50 per cent of the close to 1.5 million Polish people that were deported, would be dead by the end of 1941. The exact numbers will never be known.

The turning point came in June 1941 as Germany invaded the Soviet Union. Operation Barbarossa brought an unexpected chance for freedom to many Poles held across Soviet territory. With the Soviet Union switching sides to join the Allies, diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Poland were re-established. Despite talks often close to stalemate, the Sikorski-Maisky agreement was signed on the 30 July, giving amnesty (for crimes never committed)





to all Polish citizens deported to Soviet territory. Perhaps even more remarkable, the Polish Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces, General Sikorski, made a plan for the formation of a Polish Army in the Soviet Union. He appointed command to General Wladyslaw Anders, who inspired fierce loyalty in his soldiers and had, following the announced amnesty, just been released from the Lubyanka prison in Moscow.

As news of the amnesty spread, thousands of Poles from labour camps and remote villages from across the Soviet Union began the journey - along railways, on rafts across rivers, through

snowy terrain on sledges – all seeking recruitment fast, leading to unacceptably high death rates. or protection in the newly formed army. Many, already weakened by starvation and disease, found the journey extremely difficult and died on route. Others were too weak to even begin the journey. Some families were forced to make heart-breaking choices between those that had to stay and those who were able to leave towards an unknown future.

Initially Stalin had expected the newly formed Polish Army to fight alongside the Red Army, but with the Soviets unable to provide necessary food and supplies, the physical condition of Poles who managed to reach Anders Army was deteriorating

Furthermore, with the German war machine now focusing on the oil fields in USSR's Central Asian Republics, an agreement was made with Stalin to evacuate some of the Polish forces to the British zone in Iran.

In March 1942 the Polish Army stood at around 70,000 men, and along with dependants, eventually close to 115,000 people were allowed to leave the Soviet Union. Today Polish cemeteries can still be found all along the roads travelled by the men, women and children of Anders Army, as they made their way out through Central Asia to the Middle East.

POLAND'S REVENGE AT MONTE CASSINO

assault had failed, tactics needed to change. Quoting Nelson, "Only numbers can annihilate," General Harold Alexander began two months of elaborate preparations for a fourth attempt to break the Gustav Line – Operation Diadem. An attack much larger in scale than the previous was planned. With the British 8th Army on the right, the French Forces centre and the US 5th Army on the left, all Allied divisions would strike along 20-mile front – and the Polish II Corps, would be asked for the near-impossible.

A battle for Poland

As the Polish Army Corps arrived in Italy, they followed in the footsteps of the Polish legions led by General Dombrowski, some 150 years earlier, where in the times of Napoleon they too had been fighting for Poland's freedom.

Now, a few days following his arrival, General Wladyslaw Anders, Commander of the Polish II Corps, met with Brigadier-General Oliver Leese, commander of the 8th British Army, under whom he would work. Both men conversed with each other in French, albeit one of them more fluently than the other.

Following General Alexander's preparations for the fourth attack, Leese outlined his proposal for the Polish II Corps' contribution to the planned battle. Whilst being the smallest Corps in the 8th Army, the Poles were handed the most difficult task of all – to take Monastery Hill by frontal attack.

Leese gave Anders ten minutes to consider the proposal – it was chance to honourably refuse a proposition that had already defeated men from several nations. However General Anders was acutely aware of Poland's political and military predicament. With no independent Polish theatre of operations – the necessity of Poland's armed forces to play a decisive role in Allied operations was crucial for the future of the country. Anders reasoned, "Monte Cassino is a fortress for which many nations have battled; it is a fortress known the world over ... If I refuse, then the Corps will be deployed in the Liri Valley, which will also cause heavy losses but scattered over a longer period of time ... If we do capture Monte Cassino, and capture it we must, then we will bring Poland's cause - currently so hard pressed - to the fore of world opinion."

As General Anders agreed to the proposal, he estimated a loss of around 3,500 men. In

Polish infantry throwing grenades at German positions on Hill 593

preparation for the coming battle he met with all the generals who had commanded divisions in the previous attacks, and found General Freyberg and General Keightley very helpful. Whilst ground reconnaissance was practically impossible, Anders flew over the Cassino massif on 7 April and studied topographical maps and photographs, identifying two neighbouring hilltops, Hill 593 and Sant Angelo. These were to be secured by 3rd Carpathian and 5th Kresy divisions respectively, before proceeding with the attack on Monastery Hill itself.

The Fourth Battle

On the night of the 11 to 12 of May, before the infantry assault began, the Allied bombardment was immense. The German positions were so well hidden in the steep mountainside that the artillery was firing blind, "I remember this moment, when artillery opened fire. A bloody cannonade. It was terrifying. I don't know how the Germans could stand it, but they did," Hulacki remembers. At 1am the Polish infantry began their attack under a barrage of German gun and mortar fire. The 5th Kresy Division was to take the mountain ridge, Sant Angelo, Hills 575, 505, 452 and 447. Simultaneously the 3rd Carpathian Rifle Division would capture Hills 593, 569 and Massa Albaneta, as an initial position for the attack on the monastery. Charging uphill, dragging weapons and ammunition with them, the soldiers' every move exposed them to German fire.

"As a rule, before a larger attack, brothers were put in separate units," Hulacki says, "My older brother, Mieczyslaw, was given the very difficult task of supplying food and ammunition during very heavy battle. Later I finished schooling as an officer cadet, but at the time I was an ordinary soldier. My role in the battle was to supply tanks to the front – and at times create diversionary manoeuvres as to distract the Germans' attention."

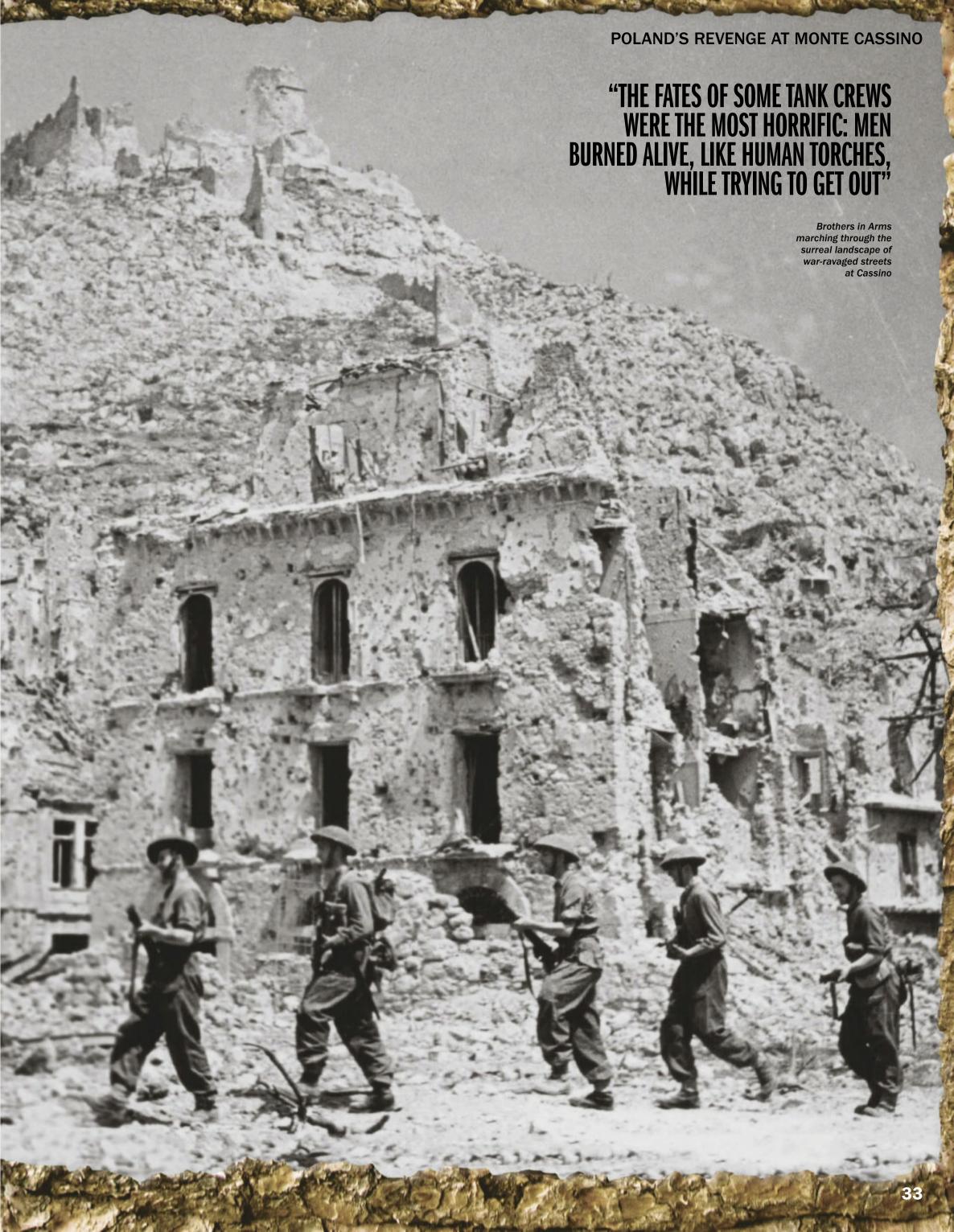
Tanks of the 2nd Armoured Division were initially planned to coordinate with the infantry assault, but the mountainous and heavily mined terrain proved difficult and little progress was made. Eighteen out of 20 sappers clearing the paths for tanks were killed or wounded within just a few hours. The fates of some tank crews were the most horrific: men burned alive, like human torches, while trying to get out – others remained trapped inside burning tanks.

As with all battles, Monte Cassino came to have its own, particular surrealistic landscape. Among red poppy-covered slopes lay "corpses of Polish and German soldiers, sometimes entangled in a deathly embrace", General Anders wrote after the battle. "It is not easy to describe an action made up of the experiences of individual detachments, sections and even of single soldiers. It was a collection of small epics, many of which can never be told, for their heroes took to their graves the secret of their exploits".

Engaging the enemy in intense hand-to-hand fighting in the overgrown and rocky terrain, the 1st Carpathian managed to take Hill 593 and 569. Yet, "it is easier to capture some objectives than to hold them," Anders noted. German artillery fire and counterattacks made advancing near impossible and in the very heavy fighting, Polish casualties were severe. Some companies ceased to exist entirely. As it







POLAND'S REVENGE AT MONTE CASSINO

proved impossible to continue, Anders issued orders to pull back to the starting lines. While the Polish II Corps had tied down enemy forces, they themselves had no reserves to call upon – and could only mount one last attack.

Monastery Hill

The second phase of the battle began on the 17 May, when the Poles renewed the assault at 7am, this time coordinating with the British 13 Corps advance in the Liri Valley and so dividing the German artillery onslaught between them. Majdalany wrote, "Every Pole who had reached the Polish Corps of General Anders, had endured a personal epic to get there. For the Poles it was a crusade. There was a cold, contained fury in their demeanour. More than any soldiers on the Allied side they had good reason to hate."

Still exhausted from fighting only a few days earlier, progress was slow, but the Poles fought with such fierce determination and fervour, that "they seemed to know no fear" to their fellow soldiers.

The account of Lance-Corpral Dobrowski, of 5th Battalion, describes the battle in vivid and brutally honest detail, "We lie there waiting and then at last comes the order to move. Always the same old cry. We must take ammo, ammo, ammo. Apart from our normal ammunition each of us must take 30 or 40 pounds of grenades. It is a hot day and the going is difficult. When we begin to ascend Hill 593, the weakest soldiers can no longer keep pace. We are in no particular formation. No sections, no platoons. The situation is such that we must take our own initiative. Later we can reorganise - those of us who are left. Now we engage the enemy. All is confusion and the Germans' positions are mixed with ours. With munificent impartiality we hurl our hand grenades. From the neighbouring heights Spandaus, Schmeissers and heavy machine guns catch us in a murderous cross-fire."

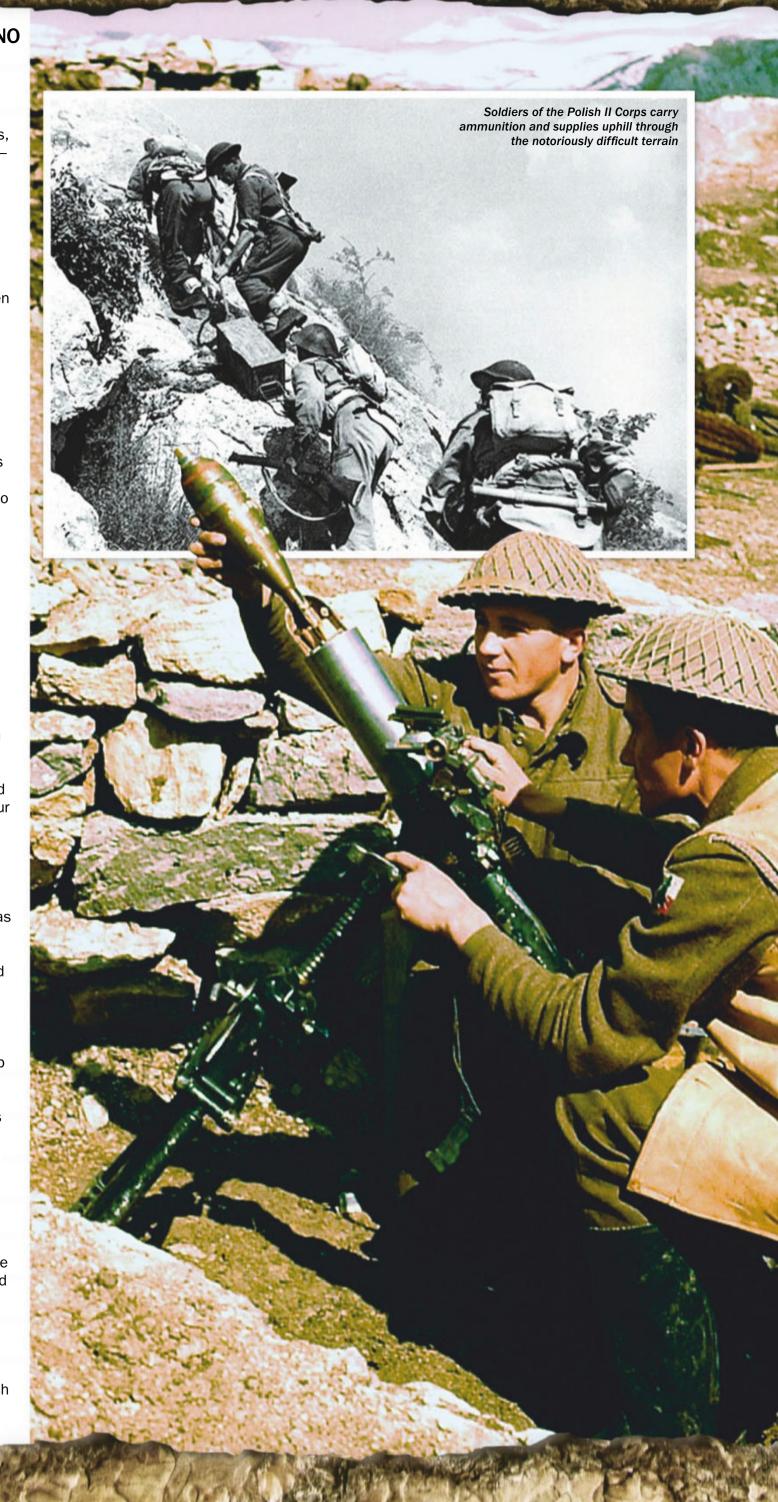
By the end of the 17 May, the Poles broke through the German defence and captured Hill 593 and San Angelo. However the situation was still uncertain and casualties very high. In the words of Colonel Rudnicki, "It was impossible to say what the dawn would bring." As it turned out, during the night, Field Marshal Kesselring judged the German position untenable and began withdrawing troops from Monastery Hill.

On the morning of the 18 May, a patrol of the 12th Podolian Lancers Regiment moved up towards the ruins of the Monastery, where at 10.20am they first raised their regimental flag above the ruins. At midday, one of the Lancers played the medieval Hejnal on his bugle to signal victory. Against all the odds the Polish II Corps had taken Monastery Hill.

The moment lives on in the heart of the Polish nation and today, the victory of Monte Cassino stands as a symbolic feat of arms in Poland's history.

"I remember walking up to the summit to see the raised flag. We were filled with emotion and we were very proud, but so many had died," Hulacki says. For a country that did not regain its freedom it was a high price to pay. "I think our price was too great," he says.

When General Anders died in exile in 1970 he was, at his own request, buried at the Polish Military Cemetery at Monte Cassino. Located





WOJTEK THE SOLDIER BEAR

ONE OF THE MOST UNUSUAL SOLDIERS IN ANDERS ARMY WAS WOJTEK – A MOUNTAIN BEAR THAT HAD BEEN BOUGHT AS A CUB AT A STREET MARKET IN HAMADAN, IRAN

Wojtek quickly grew into a 500 pounds, six feet tall beast, and was housed in the military barracks. His favourite pastime was wrestling with anyone brave enough to take him on! Wojtek travelled together with Anders's men through Iraq, Palestine and Egypt, but when the company was preparing to leave for Italy, port authority refused to accept a live animal on-board – the solution was to formally register Wojtek into the Polish Army as a soldier, with name, number, regiment and rank. Honey and marmalade-loving Private Wojtek, of the 22nd Transport Company, was to serve for two years throughout the Italian campaign.

His story caught the public's imagination and has since inspired many books, songs, poems and sculptures. Contrary to fiction, Wojtek did not carry a gun on the front line nor did he climb Monte Cassino, but he was certainly active in his unit. He understood basic Polish commands and could lift, carry and load the heaviest artillery shells onto lorries, something that usually required two men and a trolley. But above all, he became a much loved and loyal friend of the soldiers that cared for him.

In the summer of 1946 he sailed to Britain with his company, and lived out the rest of his natural life in Edinburgh Zoo, where he was often visited by his former comrades-in-arms.

Troops of the Polish 22 Transport Artillery Company (Army Service Corps, 2nd Polish Corps) watch as one of their comrades play wrestles with Wojtek



between Hill 593 and Monastery Hill in 'Dolina Smierci' - the 'Valley of Death', one of the inscriptions at the Polish memorial reads, "For our freedom and yours, we Polish soldiers gave our souls to God, our bodies to Italy's soil, and our hearts to Poland."

Piedimonte

Yet, the story does not end here. In fact, in war correspondent Melchior Wankowicz's classic three-tome on Monte Cassino, published in 1945-47, the battle at Piedimonde takes up most of the third part. For Otton Hulacki's unit, the 6th Armoured 'Children of Lwow' Division, the most difficult battle was still to come.

After taking Monastery Hill the Polish II Corps began the second stage of the offensive breaking the Adolf Hitler Line. The task was "to capture Piedimonte and to protect the right flank of the XIII British Army Corps" which were then taking heavy German fire. Like a miniature version of The Abbey at Monastery Hill, the fortified small town of Piedimonte sat atop a steep hill with views over the Liri Valley and Highway 6. Accessible only by a single road it provided a natural defence position where the Gustav and Hitler Lines joined.

The attack on Piedimonte began on the 20 May, by an especially assembled task force, "Bob", under the deputy commander of the 2 Polish Armoured Brigade, Lieutenant Colonel Bobinski. It was comprised of the 6th Armoured Division 'Children of Lwow', along with an assortment of remaining combat assets of the Polish II Corp. However, prior to the initial attack, the terrain and enemy positions had not been clearly established and along with the re-occurring problem of tank and infantry coordination there was a lack of fuel and artillery support. So when the 6th Armoured Division, without infantry support, made the first approach on Piedimonte, the three leading tanks drove straight into an ambush with the Germans unleashing an onslaught of anti-tank weaponry upon them.

Nevertheless the attempts at taking Piedimonte continued, though conditions in the days that followed were to prove extremely difficult, Lieutenant Bobinski persisted, convinced the Germans would be defeated. Bobinski's fearlessness was already then becoming legendary, as he strolled seemingly unfazed by the sound of sniper bullets at his heels. What followed was five days and four nights of heavy battle where it was difficult to assess who was the worst enemy: the Germans, the mines or the mountainous terrain. At night dugouts under immobilised tanks serving as pillboxes only provided relative safety.

While infantry support eventually arrived the conditions remained very difficult. With each renewed advance during the day tanks were immobilised by mines, broken engines or caterpillars, or slipped into ravines or stranded on rocks blocking progress along the narrow road leading up to the town.

All this, while under constant German fire. "You never look at people the way you do in battle," Wankowicz writes, "knowing that you may never see them again."

During the engagement at Piedimonte, the 6th Armoured Division comprised of 49 Sherman tanks, out of which 27 were destroyed or abandoned as wrecks.

"A tank crew is like family," Hulacki says. "For my unit, this battle was one of the most difficult experiences. Many of my very best friends were killed and also the commander of my unit, Captain Kuczuk-Pilecki, whom I liked very much."

Eventually Group "Bob" would achieve its objective. On the 25 May they broke through the Hitler Line and, along with the British, forced the German Army into headlong retreat.

The road to Rome was finally open and the Eternal City would be liberated on the 4 June, but the cost of lives had been very high. Estimates as always vary, however according to General Anders the losses of the Polish II Corps at Monte Cassino and Piedimonte totalled killed, wounded or missing - 281 officers and 3,503 other ranks.

Otton Hulacki was lucky and lived to fight another day. He later joined the 4th Armoured "Scorpion"

Regiment, fighting at Ancona, Bologna and in the end he would serve throughout the entire Italian Campaign. Among the many medals for his service, Hulacki was awarded the Monte Cassino Cross, Italy Star and the War Medal 1939-1945.

Afterglow

After the war ended Hulacki travelled to Britain where the Poles in 1946 had not been invited to join the victory parade in London. The hurtful omission is still remembered today, yet Hulacki speaks frankly, "We could not go on a victory parade anyway - we did not win the war. They sold us out." The Poland they had left no longer existed. When Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill agreed to re-draw Poland's map they also erased the homes of most of the soldiers in Anders Army. Hulacki's Polish hometown of Lwow was now located in Ukraine. As post-war Poland fell under communist rule, General Anders and his soldiers were branded as traitors. Few returned to Poland and those that did rarely lived for long under communist repressions. Hulacki had already survived the Soviets once. Instead he decided to build a new life in Britain, married an English girl and remained active among the Polish veteran and émigré community throughout his life.

Living with his wife at the Isle of Wight, today, at 97 years of age, now retired Lieutenant Colonel Otton Z. Hulacki prepares to make the journey back to Monte Cassino for the 75th anniversary of the battle. The Polish eagle and silver scorpion, sitting proudly on his black beret, will once again gleam in the Italian sun.

Below: Retired Lieutenant Colonel Otton Z. Hulacki pictured in 2017





Left: With the Polish flag at the summit, General Anders ordered the Union Jack to be raised as well

Left: Bugler Master Corporal Emil Czech plays the Medieval Hejnal Mariacki, to signal Polish victory



MODEL MILITARY VEHICLES TREMENDOUS TANKS

effective fire-power with greater speed and mobility in the world of tank warfare, bigger is not always better.

First introduced by the British during the Battle of the Somme on 15 September 1916, the tank was developed under the utmost secrecy for fear of alerting the Germans to these decisive new weapons. Originally known as

Landships, workers involved in their production were told that the vehicles were nothing more than mobile water tanks for use in the desert war. As military planners looked for a suitable code word for the new machines, the word

As the tank developed, it would become a crucial component of German Blitzkrieg during WWII, as they perfected the use of fast moving armoured vehicles to back up infantry assaults, following devastating aerial bombardment. Today's tanks can trace their lineage back to the first British Mark I machines of the Somme Offensive and will still be found at the spearhead of any ground based military operation.

Airfix kits allow you to recreate hundreds of different iconic aircraft, tank and car scale models in the comfort of your own home. Airfix produce a wide variety of tanks and military vehicles in a variety of different scales and schemes. Within the Airfix range, alongside the classic kits, there is a Cromwell MkIV Tank Starter Set which contains glue, paintbrush and 4 acrylic paints, everything you need to create a stunning 1:76 scale model.

The Battlefront Gift Set contains everything you need to build a complete diorama, including a Sherman and Tiger Tank, British and German infantry and a diorama base. Along with all the paint, glues and brushes required.

A55109 GROMWELL MKIV TANK STARTER SET

1200

Perkins CV-12 V12 Diesel 26 litre

120

450



A01803 SHERMAN M4A2 TANK 17/5



A50009 BATTLEFRONT GIFT **SET** 176















he Falklands War is known for the varied British units that fought to recapture the South Atlantic islands. RAF aircraft clashed with Argentine jets, Royal Navy ships bore the brunt of enemy air attacks, while infantrymen 'yomped' across the rugged landscape to engage Argentine defenders. However, there is one aspect of the campaign that has received little attention – the artillery.

Five batteries of the Royal Artillery fought in the Falklands and Major General Julian Thompson (commander of 3 Commando Brigade) has since noted, "Without the gunners we would not have won – however bravely and skilfully the other soldiers fought. Only devastatingly accurate and powerful fire missions enabled the infantry to overcome well-sited Argentine soldiers among rocks and crags on the formidable objectives."

One of these artillerymen was Second Lieutenant Tom Martin of 29 (Corunna) Field Battery, RA. Martin and his colleagues had sailed south with 2nd Battalion, Parachute Regiment (2 Para) and would support them throughout the land campaign. Nevertheless, 29 Battery would ultimately provide heavy fire cover for any unit that requested it and their guns participated in the majority of the engagements during the campaign.

A "shock" deployment

Martin joined the British Army in 1979 and was commissioned into the artillery the following year. Becoming a gunnery officer was not his original plan, "I came from a family of veterinary surgeons that spanned 100 years. I was the fourth generation and was expecting to go into

veterinary science but I performed abysmally in my school exams and didn't make the grade. I then looked for something that gave me a professional status but without a professional qualification. I hit upon an idea of being a pilot and pursued that with the intention of joining the Army Air Corps."

At that time the AAC did not directly recruit officers so after completing his training at Sandhurst, Martin entered the artillery because it provided the most number of pilots for the Air Corps. Upon completing his training Martin joined 29 (Corunna) Field Battery, 4th Field Regiment as a second lieutenant.

After a spell serving in Northern Ireland, 29 Battery had returned to their base at Aldershot when news broke of the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands, "It was a shock and for the vast majority of people nobody even knew where the Falklands were. Back in the day there was no internet and what you saw was on the news, radio or in the papers. We were very much glued to TV screens when it happened."

Martin recalls that although the British response was swift, he didn't think he would be deployed, "Margaret Thatcher was saying that she wouldn't have any of this on her watch and immediately dispatched a task force. This was 3 Commando Brigade commanded by Brigadier Julian Thompson, which included the three batteries of 29 Commando Regiment, RA. When they all sailed south, that was it. The rest of us were told that this was a completely commando affair and we wouldn't get involved."

29 Battery was even granted leave for Easter before it was hurriedly called back, "Within 24 hours we got recalled to barracks by the codeword 'Pegasus', which was a surprise. In the time that the brigade had sailed, the military planners had realised that there still wasn't enough infantry. They decided to dispatch 2 Para under Colonel H. Jones, who wasn't going without his guns. Our battery commander Tony Rice said, 'Where 2 Para goes, we go,' so we went with them and sailed on 26 April. This was some weeks after the initial task force had deployed."

The voyage south

29 Battery spent 25 days sailing the 8,000 miles down the Atlantic Ocean to the Falklands. While its six L118 light guns were transported on MV Europic, the gunners sailed on MV Norland, a North Sea passenger ferry. Martin recalls that the ship had to be specially converted for conflict, "It wasn't decked out to be a troopship. They converted it by welding flight decks on the stern and near the funnel. It was also crewed by merchant seamen who looked after us. We were their 'charges' and they felt honour-bound to deliver us in the best possible conditions."

Martin suffered from seasickness and remembers the voyage as a trial, "It was absolutely awful and I was the world's worst sailor. I was getting my sea legs by the end of it but if they had said, 'Go and invade anywhere,' we would have done. I personally would have gone anywhere – I just had to get off."

While suffering the rigours of life at sea, Martin and his colleagues were largely cut off from the outside world and assumed that the developing crisis would be resolved, "The impression was that it was all going to be sorted out diplomatically. Nobody thought that we would actually be having any form of real physical conflict because the stakes were so high. As we sailed south we were in an information vacuum.

"All you could rely on was the ship's tannoy telling you what had happened on the daily news bulletin at mealtimes."

The seriousness of their predicament was confirmed on 2 May when HMS Conqueror sank the Argentine cruiser ARA General Belgrano, "That news broke to us the following morning at breakfast. You were on a ship with 900 paratroopers and other assorted people so it was an aggressive bunch at the best of times. The noise was absolutely deafening when the news broke on the tannoy."

Despite the initial cheering, the mood darkened when the Argentine casualties were announced, "You could sense that the person making the broadcast was expecting a response because he then said, 'For the loss of c.240 lives'. The place went absolutely silent, you could have heard a pin drop. As it was, the final toll was 323 lives that were lost."

Further shocking news soon followed when HMS Sheffield was sunk by an Exocet missile and 22 members of the SAS were killed in a helicopter crash, "We knew then that there was no going back and the mood on the ship was very sombre and quiet. Back in the UK, *The Sun* had their banner headline of 'GOTCHA!' when the Belgrano went down and it was all very jingoistic. There was none of that on the task force and certainly not on the Norland, we had no time for that. It was very serious."

"YOU WERE ON A SHIP WITH 900 PARATROOPERS AND OTHER ASSORTED PEOPLE SO IT WAS AN AGGRESSIVE BUNCH AT THE BEST OF TIMES. THE NOISE WAS ABSOLUTELY DEAFENING WHEN THE NEWS BROKE ON THE TANNOY"

San Carlos Water

The Norland finally arrived at the Falklands and 29 Battery landed at San Carlos Water during the amphibious landings on 21 May. Located on the west coast of East Falkland, the battle for San Carlos was the fight to establish a successful British beachhead on the territory's largest and most populated island. As crucial artillery support, 29 Battery was one of the first units to land, "The plan was clearly an amphibious landing and it was something that we hadn't done for real since Korea. We sailed in the dark and I got ashore by helicopter. I was going to be one of the first ones to fly in at first light to help set up the gun positions. These had to be secured and set up ready for the guns to come ashore."

Martin's first impressions of the Falklands were of a bleak landscape, "It was a bit of a

shock because we didn't know what to expect and didn't have any pictures per se. When dawn broke you could have been off the northwest coast of Scotland. It was grey, dark and you didn't think of vibrant colours."

Once Martin was ashore, 29 Battery's gun position was established on the extreme southern edge of San Carlos Water at a deserted farm called Head of the Bay House. The house was painted white with a red roof and was used as a landmark by Argentine pilots to guide them on attacking raids, "It stood out like a sore thumb. Most of the air attacks came in right over the top of our gun position because the Argentine pilots were directed to the task force at anchorage via our little farmstead. We were their line-up point for all their attacks and we saw a huge amount of Argentine jets fly over us. We had a go at them of course and that was our first taste of seeing the enemy."

29 Battery fired at the jets with small arms, which was Martin's first experience of combat, "You stood there and opened up at the jets as they came through with their machine guns. You were shooting at the plane, rather than the person who was flying it, and it was more of a case to just shoot the plane down. You felt disconnected in that regard but in that moment of anger and aggression it was a bit of a release to know that you can do it."

Firing the first shot

On 23 May, Martin gave the command to fire the first land artillery shot of the war, "We were the ones who were furthest south and were effectively the closest to the Argentine garrison



L118 LIGHT GUN



29 BATTERY'S FIELD GUNS WERE NEWLY INTRODUCED ARTILLERY PIECES THAT ARE STILL IN SERVICE TODAY



Originally produced for the British Army in the mid-1970s, the L118 is a 105mm howitzer. Weighing two tonnes, 8.8 metres (28.87 feet) long, 2.13 metres (6.99 feet) high and manned by a crew of six, the gun is lightweight and can be towed. The firing system is electrically actuated but the weapon is otherwise conventionally designed. A with each projectile exiting the barrel at 2,300 feet per second.

Since its introduction, the L118 has been widely exported and participated in many war zones including the western Sahara, Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone and, most recently, Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Falklands was the second conflict that the gun saw active service and Martin recalls that their

introduction had unintended consequences, "We had six L118 light guns [in 29 Battery] and they could fire a 35-pound shell some 17.2 kilometres. It was a pretty state-of-the-art gun in those days because we'd sold the old light guns, which were pack-howitzers. It turned out that the sales of some of these guns went to Argentina and they ended up at the far end!"





down at Darwin and Goose Green. One of our observers was up on the Sussex Mountains looking over these settlements and he saw what he thought was an Argentinean patrol travelling in a vehicle. He called for fire."

Martin was prepared for the fire mission, "As far as gunners are concerned we're always on call 24/7 at the drop of a hat. The call for fire comes in the chilling tones of 'Fire Mission Battery'. That's the cue for all gun batteries on the regimental net who are listening in to then respond. The first battery that calls 'Ready' gets the mission and that was me. I was in the CP (Command Post) on duty at the time and it was a moment and a half!"

The observer gave Martin a target and fire orders, which then had to be interpreted, "This was in terms of getting the ammunition prepared, making sure the guns had the right charge, getting the right fuses and computing the firing data for the individual guns in terms of bearing and elevation. I then told the gunners to load and prepare to fire on my command. I would wait on the observer's instruction, 'Do it now' and I'd be the one on the end of a handset to say 'Fire!' At that point the guns went 'Bang!'."

Martin was very much aware of the importance of this event, "Artillery was used during the Aden Emergency in a limited capacity but the RA hadn't fired in anger in any major conflict since Malaya in 1960. Here we were, some 20 years later, and you felt that the world was watching you. You had to make sure all the sums were right and it was career-limiting stuff back home if you got it wrong. It was pretty intense and we fired at extreme range. Of the four gun batteries that were initially down in the Falklands, 29 (Corunna) Field Battery fired the first rounds in anger."

During that night Martin was with the battery's senior lieutenant Bill Moore when HMS Antelope was attacked in the bay, "I was off-shift talking to Bill when we saw this almighty flash. Then there was this incredible bang as the ship exploded. The whole of San Carlos Water lit up with this explosion and it was one of those 'OMG' moments. When dawn broke the following day you looked across

and could see the ship was on fire and still smoking. Eventually, it broke its back and sank, which was really sobering."

Martin reflects that his initial combat experiences in San Carlos Water were reminiscent of earlier conflicts, "War was very different back then to what it is now. Compared to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Argentines had jets, artillery and infantry etc. It was like a throwback to WWII. Watching jets go in, ships being attacked and blown up while airplanes were being shot down in front of you was quite a surreal experience."

Dustbin cuisine

At Head of the Bay House, 29 Battery began to suffer from depleting food rations, "We went ashore with a few days rations. The idea was that after two days you said 'Can we have some more please?' over the radio and then it would be delivered. When you were down to your last 24 hours rations another lot would come in. However, because of the loss of helicopters on SS Atlantic Conveyor, rotary support was limited. There was a tremendous effort getting stores and equipment off the ships and we were very much down the food chain. You'd send requests and they'd say 'Yes, we'll do that' but nothing came."

After two days without rations, the battery resorted to desperate measures, "The one thing we weren't short of on the Falklands was sheep and the decision was made to shoot one. One of our cooks was a butcher by trade and he butchered this sheep. A private from the Catering Corps was then given a galvanised

"THE RA HADN'T FIRED IN ANGER IN ANY MAJOR CONFLICT SINCE MALAYA IN 1960. HERE WE WERE, SOME 20 YEARS LATER, AND YOU FELT THAT THE WORLD WAS WATCHING YOU" dustbin and told to clean it. He cleaned it up absolutely spotless."

With a bin acting as an improvised stove and a few root vegetables discovered growing on the farmstead, the gunners contributed random ingredients, "A hole was dug with a large fire pit because there was plenty of peat from the store at the house. We got a fire going with girders over the top and put the stew on. The cooks went around with a bin bag and asked everybody for anything they had squirrelled away in their pockets. This was anything from a packet of soup to stock cubes, biscuits and dried peas."

The result was surprisingly tasty, "All these things made this all-in stew and it was wonderful. The mutton was perfect and the chef actually got to do some cooking with potatoes, carrots etc. We had it by the pint in a mess tin and it fed the entire gun position. If you ever saw a dustbin full of stew you wouldn't believe it!"

Bluff Cove

On 3 June, 29 Battery was moved forward to the small settlement and sea inlet of Bluff Cove. Martin recalls that logistics were one of the biggest headaches for the British during the campaign, "There were no roads and everything had to be shifted by air. They were in short supply because the Atlantic Conveyor went down so all except one of the Chinooks were lost. There was therefore a great weight put on the rotary assets to deliver anything and everything to do with the task force."

Transporting a battery was particularly difficult, "We required 42 helicopter lifts at a minimum. That would transport the six guns, 90-odd personnel, command post, stores and a limited amount of ammunition forward. This could not cover the sustained amount of firing so you would then have to also bring in thousands of rounds by air. That was a huge logistical effort placed on the rotary fleet but the helicopters played an absolute blinder."

Such was the artillery's importance that the guns became a military priority, "The Paras and commandos had to exchange places and walk. They ended up yomping across the Falklands to fight their battles because there was no



29 BATTERY'S GUN POSITIONS

TOM MARTIN'S ARTILLERY UNIT WAS DEPLOYED THREE TIMES TO SUPPORT THE LAND CAMPAIGN BATTLES

29 Battery's gun positions were established in key strategic areas to provide vital assistance to the advancing infantry on East Falkland. From Head of the Bay House near San Carlos Water to Bluff Cove and Wether Ground in the south, Martin's gunners kept up the heavy firepower required to defeat Argentine forces.

Throughout these deployments and fire missions, Martin's role was based in each position's command post, "When a call to fire came in, my job was to convert that call using log tables, slide rules and protractors into firing solutions for the guns to be able to engage the target. I would then control the guns to deliver what the guy at the sharp end was asking for."



THE GUNS OF EAST FALKLAND

air support. Guns, ammunition and food were moved forward and casualties would go back."

Once the battery landed at Bluff Cove, Martin discovered that they had effectively landed in No-Man's-Land, "When we got out of the Chinook we were running around doing the technical bits and establishing where we were. A soldier from 2 Para came across and said, 'You alright? You do realise that's my trench over there? There's nothing between that trench and Stanley apart from you.' We were in full view of the enemy, which was rather disturbing. We were technically the furthest forward of our own troops apart from the SAS and SBS. That became another 'OMG' moment but we were able to move the gun position."

29 Battery were moved to a safer position a short distance away from Bluff Cove at the southern edge of Fitz Cove. A few days after they arrived, Argentine jets attacked British ships in what became known as the 'Bluff Cove Air Attacks', "The misconception is that the attacks actually happened at Bluff Cove but it actually happened at Fitzroy. We'd had a couple of bad days of really heavy weather and were soaked through. After a shift I heard something on the wind that sounded like a jet noise and immediately shouted across to the command post. The first wave of Argentine jets flew over shortly afterwards and we started to engage them. They realised they were under fire but pressed home their attack. The second wave came in and the Scots Guards then opened up as well with this wall of lead. It was all tracers

so you could see where the bullets were flying." Despite the ground troops' best efforts, the Argentine jets proceeded to bomb the heavily manned vessels RFA Sir Galahad and RFA Sir Tristram, "The jets flew over our gun positions but they weren't interested in us, they were interested in the ships. Nobody managed to get a tracer lead on the jets, which was unfortunate. They pressed home their attack and the aircraft bombed Galahad and Tristram. I didn't see the bombing but you could see the smoke and hear the jets fly around."

Both ships were badly damaged and the British suffered casualties of 56 killed and 150 wounded during the attacks, "Two of our number were at Bluff Cove when it happened and were down on the beach helping to pull people ashore and tend to the wounded. When they came back they were very, very quiet."

Wether Ground

29 Battery was subsequently moved six kilometres further forward towards Stanley to their last combat gun position at Wether Ground. This would prove to be the most intense period for the gunners as they came under increasing Argentine artillery fire, "We were situated behind this little ridge, which kept us covered from view. However, it doesn't take the brains of a rocket scientist to work out that if 50-odd helicopters are bringing guns on a little flight from Bluff Cove, dropping something off and then going back empty then there is something going on there."

The battery was then subjected to Argentine artillery airbursts, "It was pretty scary. They had a 155mm field howitzer, which could fire a 90-pound shell that was three times the size of ours. They could fire that over 24 kilometres but we couldn't reach them because we only had a 17-kilometre range. The Argentine 155 harassed us for about three days before it was taken out by an airstrike."

Martin and the other gunners had no choice but to stand their ground, "The bottom line is that when there is call for fire you're there manning the guns. You stand there and return what fire support is required regardless of what's coming down on you. It's the training that gets you through."

29 Battery was fortunate that the Argentine fire was not accurate, "We were just so lucky that the shells were landing all around us or over the top of us. Believe me, they were very close! Shrapnel was hitting us but by the time it got to us it was effectively spent. However, it still would have ruined your day if you'd been hit by it as one of our number was."

As a gunner, Martin found it ironic that he was under fire, "We were doing what artillerymen have had to do over hundreds of years but it was quite something to come under artillery fire yourself. You're dishing it out and we had thousands of rounds going off but to have it coming back to you as well was a surreal experience. It wasn't pleasant."

Despite the intense shelling, Martin knew the British would win, "We knew that the Argentinean







resolve was crumbling just by the nature of how they were rolled up in various battles. There were determined bands of Argentine soldiers but by and large they were conscripts who were poorly trained and – we felt – poorly led. There was one of us to three of them but it was quality over quantity. We were worlds apart in terms of professionalism and aggression."

Victory

29 Battery had been involved in supporting almost every land engagement including the battles of Mount Kent, Two Sisters, Mount Longdon and Mount Tumbledown. By the time Stanley was recaptured on 14 June the battery was still at Wether Ground and Martin recalls feeling hesitant in the wake of victory, "There was huge relief that we'd won but you couldn't rest on your laurels. Although the Argentines were surrendering there was nothing to say that was what their government wanted. It was a military junta and it didn't look good to fail so there was no cast-iron guarantee that it had all stopped."

The gunners were also suffering from the effects of the elements while they returned to Bluff Cove and remained in the field, "We had been out in the open all the time and the weather was just brutal. It was cold, wet and windy and if you were damp there was wind chill. Not having enough to eat made you hungry and fatigued. You were not out of action even when the fire missions were going down. It had a debilitating effect and only through training and finding a routine that worked did you fight your way through it to survive."

The battery was billeted in outbuildings at Bluff Cove where they slept in a garage and sheep-shearing shed. On one occasion, Martin was driven through Stanley where he saw many Argentine prisoners, "They were dejected and crestfallen but I had no sympathy for them. As a soldier you are a tool used by politicians to go and prosecute the political will, so as a collective they were the enemy.

"AS A SOLDIER YOU ARE A TOOL USED BY POLITICIANS TO GO AND PROSECUTE THE POLITICAL WILL, SO AS A COLLECTIVE THEY WERE THE ENEMY"

"However, it wasn't their choice to be there and as individuals you could feel some sympathy because they were so poorly led, fed and looked after."

Martin also had a low opinion of the Argentine fighting ability, "Argentina doesn't have, to my mind, an extensive history of warfare. We have a fighting capability and centuries' worth of tradition doing it whereas the Argentine forces didn't.

"They had some very good soldiers in terms of professionals and they caused a lot of grief but they were few and far between. Compared to a British commando or parachute battalion it was chalk and cheese."

However, Martin did respect the Argentine pilots, "Their skill and bravery was never in question. To see what they did day after day in San Carlos eventually meant that the area was called 'Bomb Alley'. They must have known they were losing people but they kept coming back. There was no question about their fighting capability, they were very determined."

The Argentine military threat ultimately never materialised after the recapture of Stanley and 29 Battery finally returned home on 11 July 1982. Although their role has been relatively unsung, Martin is no doubt of the importance of the Royal Artillery during the war, "The artillery played a vital role. Julian Thompson always speaks of its tremendous worth and knew that without the gunners we probably wouldn't have won, it's that stark. They were a major

ingredient and there's an old adage that says, 'Infantry wins battles, but artillery wins wars'."

"Was it worth it?"

After returning to the UK, Martin went on to achieve his ambition of becoming a helicopter pilot in the Army Air Corps and retired from the British Army with the rank of major. He still works for the emergency services as a helicopter pilot and has been flying professionally for 35 years. Nevertheless, he did not return to the Falklands until 2017.

Martin was visiting to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the conflict with his former battery colleagues and he observed a transformed society, "Back then there were about 1,800 people scattered across the islands and they were in decline because of an ageing population and people leaving. Now it's 'Boom Town'. The last census they had in 2016 listed 3,000 people living there. The islanders are also incredibly grateful about the sacrifices that were made."

For the veterans, revisiting their old battlegrounds was, "quite a cathartic experience. It meant we were able to return and pay our respects to those who had been left behind. Was it tough? Yes. There were a few hard moments when we visited certain places but overall everyone came away with a positive experience."

The Falklands War was, and remains, perceived by many as a controversial conflict but Martin is convinced that it had to be fought, "It was necessary. The Falklands were incredibly British even though it was a sleepy backwater. It was 8,000 miles away but it had the same needs for protection as the Isle of Wight. There's no difference, it's something we're responsible for and Argentina's junta saw it as an easy get out from the political mire they were in. When you speak to the islanders they could be from a UK county, they sound so British. Was it worth it? Yes. There was no way we could turn our backs on them."

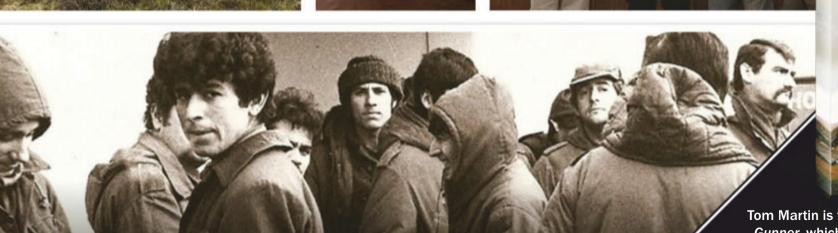


A group of Argentine POWs onboard the

'prison ship' MV St Edmund, 29 June 1982



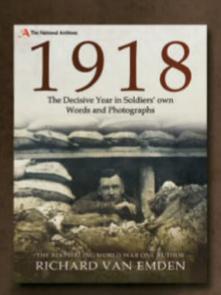




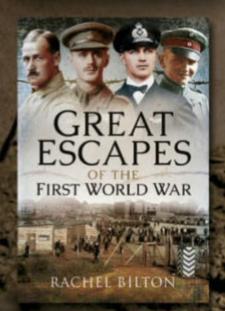
Tom Martin is the author of Falklands Gunner, which is published by Pen & Sword and includes a foreword by Major General Julian Thompson CB, OBE. For more information visit: www.pen-and-sword.co.uk

X PEN & SWORD BOOKS LTD MILITARY HISTORY BOOKS

25% DISCOUNT



WAS: £25.00 NOW: £18.75 ISBN: 9781526735553



WAS: £19.99 NOW: £14.99 ISBN: 9781473887732

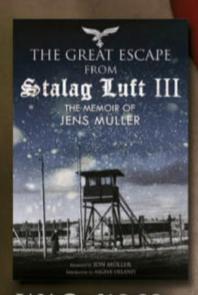
Stalag Luft III

WAS: £25.00 NOW: £18.75 ISBN: 9781784384340



WAS: £14.99 NOW: £11.25

ISBN: 9781526756619 ISBN: 9781473868960 ISBN: 9781526720177



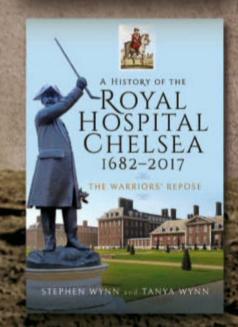
WAS: £19.99 NOW: £14.99 ISBN: 9781784384302



WAS: £25.00 NOW: £18.75 ISBN: 9781526740908



WAS: £25.00 NOW: £18.75



WAS: £25.00 NOW: £18.75

TO ORDER CALL AND QUOTE CODE **HOW66** TO RECEIVE YOUR 25% DISCOUNT:

01226 734222

OR ORDER ONLINE www.pen-and-sword.co.uk



PEN & SWORD BOOKS LTD

CARUST

THE 'CARLIST STATE'

Manuel Martorell concludes his mini series with the third great Carlist insurrection (1872-1876), which challenged the monarchical and republican governments of Spain and created an authentic state in the Basque-Navarre region



VARS PARTII

he Convention of Vergara agreed by generals Rafael Maroto (Carlist) and Baldomero Espartero (Liberal) on 31 August 1839 put an end to armed conflict in the Basque-Navarre region. However it failed to solve the problems that had caused the war. Espartero had promised to respect the region's fueros - which made them subordinate to the Constitution. For most Carlists this confirmed Maroto's betraval but the lingering problem was that the Liberal model of government was never consolidated under the reign of Isabel II. Opposing Liberal groups fought for power, relying on the support of military commanders who defended their ideas. Between 1836 and 1868, the year that Isabel II was dethroned in the September Revolution, Spain saw 57 governments and 16 military uprisings.

In this climate, Carlos VI, son of Carlos María Isidro – Carlos V, who had started the First Carlist War – made two unsuccessful attempts to oust Isabel II. The first came with the uprising of the matiners ('early risers' in Catalan) or Second Carlist War. In 1860 he disembarked with troops at San Carlos de la Rapita (Tarragona). Generals Juan Prim, Juan Bautista Topete and Francisco Serrano took the lead in Cádiz with the 'Glorious Revolution' of September of 1868, which aimed to dethrone Isabel II. This was when the Carlists seized the

"BETWEEN 1836 AND 1868 SPAIN SAW 57 GOVERNMENTS AND 16 MILITARY UPRISINGS" moment to organise another major insurrection. At that time the pretender was Carlos María de Borbón, whose father Juan, brother of Carlos VI, had abdicated under pressure by the leaders of the legitimist movement.

Power vacuum and revolution

The threat of a new revolution, the anticlerical line of General Prim and the total collapse of the Isabel system caused many non-Carlist monarchists, along with other sectors frightened by the threat of revolution, to support Carlos VII. The pretender tried to put the Catalan Carlist General Ramón Cabrera in charge of the uprising. Cabrera had married the English aristocrat Marianne Richards, with whom he lived in Wentworth Palace in Surrey. Cabrera's political views had mellowed by this time and he declined the offer from the latest Carlist



pretender. Carlos VII himself moved to the south of France to lead the rebel groups. On 2 May 1872 he crossed the French border into Vera de Bidasoa, a village that welcomed him with garlanded balconies, the ringing of the church bells and 1,500 armed volunteers. After attending mass along with his staff in a convent, he marched to the village of Oroquieta, the mustering spot for various rebel groups, many of them weaponless, of Navarre and Guipúzcoa.

On 4 May General Domingo Moriones, military governor of Navarre, learnt from some shepherds where the Carlists were concentrated and that same afternoon he took them completely by surprise in a secluded corner of the Ulzama Valley, some 20 miles north of Pamplona. Those who had weapons tried to protect their comrades and prevent Carlos VII from falling into enemy hands. After a short and unequal skirmish, the Carlists' defeat was total and humiliating - the Liberals' casualties amounted to seven dead and 20 wounded, while the Carlists lost 38 men and 749 as prisoners, who were deported to the Canary Islands and Cuba. The battle went down in the history of Carlism with the name of 'the Disaster of Oroquieta'.

One year later, on 5 May 1873, following the proclamation of the First Spanish Republic, the troops of General Antonio Dorregaray dispersed the column of Colonel Navarro at the village

of Eraul. The Carlists later scored several victories, most significantly the conquest of Estella, the town where Carlos VII was to set up an administration that already included large areas of Álava, Biscay, Guipúzcoa and Navarre.

Estella became the main objective of a Republican army, which at the same time suffered constant defections by monarchist officers. After several unsuccessful forays at the beginning of November, General Domingo Moriones advanced from Logroño to the 'Carlist capital' with two infantry divisions, an avant-garde brigade, 18 cavalry squadrons (1,500 horsemen) and 24 pieces of artillery. A total of 16,000 soldiers to confront some 9,000 volunteers entrenched in the villages of Monjardin, Urbiola, Arroniz, Luquin and Barbarin. The army's columns stretched to the Carlists' sacred mountain of Montejurra, which dominates the Logroño-Estella-Pamplona route along a three-mile front.

The Battle of Montejurra took place between 7 and 9 November. On the first day alone, the attackers fired 600 cannon shots and the Republican vanguard managed to break the defensive line at Urbiola, clearing the way for an advance on the Carlist defenders. Moriones proclaimed the fall of Estella and, therefore, the end of the 'Carlist State'. At that critical moment, Carlos VII ordered an attack by the 1st and 4th Navarre battalions, who launched a bayonet charge in an attempt to close the breach.

The attack met with success, forcing

Carlist domain extended throughout the Basque Country and most of Navarre, leaving the cities of San Sebastián, Vitoria, Pamplona and Bilbao in the hands of the central government. The latter withstood a relentless siege until the third battle of Somorrostro in May 1874, when the entrenched Carlists where forced to abandon the city.

A state within a state

The 'Carlist State' had a government with secretaries of state, (ministries) of war, justice, treasury, foreign affairs and communications. four deputations (provincial governments) that were governed, like the city councils, by the old provincial system. There was also a Carlist university in Oñate, a mint, a postal and telegraph system, railways, military academies for infantry, cavalry, artillery and an organisation similar to the Red Cross (La Caridad) with 27 hospitals, the main in Irache.

All of this was under Carlist administration. On the other hand the Catalonian Carlists tried to restore, at the town of Olot, a Catalan government, the Generalitat, and the fueros that had been suppressed in 1714 by Felipe V after the War of Succession against the Catalans, Aragonese and Valencians. Although a smaller organisation, the Carlist administration of Catalonia included the whole of the province of Lleida, the western half of Gerona and Barcelona and most of Tarragona, along with major important cities



the Guardia Civil. Meanwhile Carlism was at the peak of its power. In December of that year, another military putschist, General Arsenio Martínez Campos, proclaimed the restoration of the monarchy and placed on the throne Isabel's son, Alfonso XII.

The newly-reorganised army now faced not only the Carlist challenge but also the federalist movement that had spread across the Mediterranean coast. In 1875 the Carlists scored a number of major victories, notably at the battle of Lácar, near Estella, when they routed the monarchist army and came close to kidnapping King Alfonso XII.

On July 3 the Carlist pretender Carlos VII solemnly swore the Basque fueros in the shadow of the 'sacred' Árbol de Gernika (Tree of Guernica). However with the Republic no longer in existence and under a new and better-disciplined army, the Liberal government managed to control the situation in Catalonia and concentrate all its war potential on the northern front. At the beginning of 1876, a corps of 50,000 soldiers advanced on Navarre, led by General Martínez Campos. Another force of more than 100,000 troops marched east towards the heart of the Basque Country, disarticulating the core of the Carlist army in Elgueta in February 1876.

A week later the capital of the 'Carlist State', Estella, fell into Liberal hands. On the 28 February, Carlos VII himself was forced once again and now definitively to cross the French border at Valcarlos, where with his generals were acclaimed by thousands of supporters. The Third Carlist War had ended. It is said that just past the bridge of Arneguy, which marks the dividing

line between France and Spain, Carlos VII turned his face to Spain and exclaimed, "¡Volveré!" ("I shall return!") That remains the war cry in the collective imagination of Carlists today.

On 21 July the Cortes of Madrid definitively suppressed the Basque fueros. Formally the new law did not 'suppress' but 'modified' this legal code. It did not expressly eliminate local government, boards or municipal councils. In practice, however, it emptied them of content and autonomy. The regional institutions were integrated into a single constitutional political system. Only one power remained in their hands provincial councils could periodically negotiate economic agreements with the central government.

This third defeat of Carlism on the battlefield, along with the frustration felt by its supporters, opened a broad political gap soon to be occupied by new forces, such as the Basque Nationalist Party in the Basque-Navarre region and the Regionalist League in the inland regions of Catalonia. It is not surprising that many Carlists, disillusioned by the failure of their cause, gave their support to these two new movements from which, in turn, would arise the secessionist movements that are today Spain's main political challenges.

THE MORENTIN MANIFESTO

The Morentin Manifesto of 19 July 1874 marks the beginning of a political movement accused of absolutism

In a generic way Carlism is usually described as a dynastic, absolutist and religiously fundamentalist movement. In reality, from its origins, it placed great importance on preserving the old laws contained in the fueros. This fact explains their approach to other political options, such as the progressives, republicans or federalists during the second and third Carlist Wars, as well as internal evolutionary processes involving important personalities like General Cabrera or the pretenders Juan and Carlos VI, sons of Carlos María Isidro.

However it was the Morentin Manifesto, in July 1874 by Carlos VII in the Navarre village of the same name, which initiated a political movement that a century later led Carlism into clearly left-wing positions. In that manifesto, the 'Carlist king' acknowledged that Generals Prim, Serrano and Topete offered him the throne of Spain after the September Revolution, albeit under unacceptable terms.

The pretender then reiterated his respect for the 'freedom letters' of the people of Spain. He acknowledged that there are immutable principles but also doctrines "subject to the mutability of human nature and the circumstances of the times". Then he rejected the persecution of other religions and condemned despotism. "I will not go," he said, "one step beyond the Church of Jesus Christ."

In addition he ensured that he always defended the right of people to 'freely' choose their representatives and that there must be "a legitimate representation of the country in the Cortes". Carlos denies "the slander that some spread among the common people", he intends to "restore courts and institutions that may not agree with the character of modern society". This was a clear reference to the Inquisition which, according to Liberals, Carlism wanted to restore in Spain.

Don Carlos, Duke of Madrid, had claims on the thrones of both Spain and

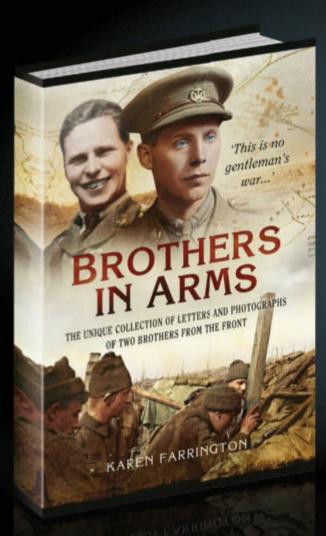
France



Carlist and government troops clash at the Battle of Murrieta in San Pedro Abanto

SOCIATION PEN & SWORD

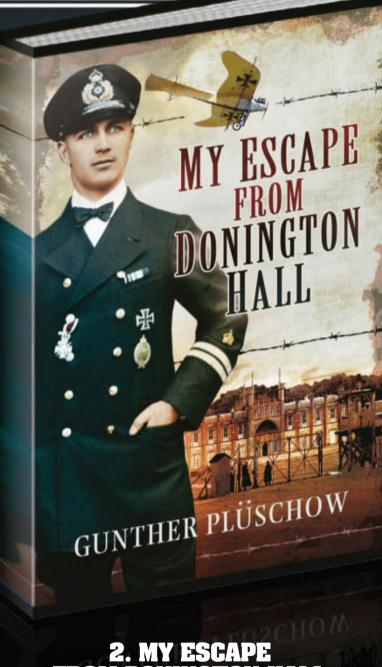
CHOOSE A BOOK WORTH £19.99



N

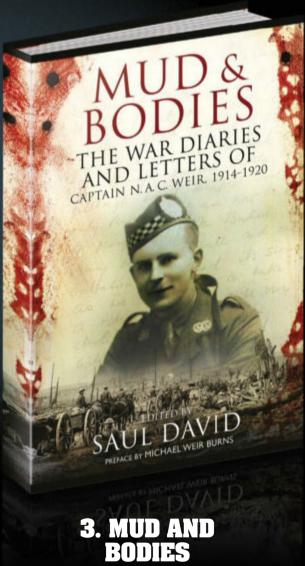
I. BROTHERS **IN ARMS**

The Unique Collection of Letters & Photographs of Two Brothers from the Front Line during WWI **KAREN FARRINGTON**



FROM DONINGTON HALL

GUNTHER PLÜSCHOW



The War Diaries & Letters of Captain N.A.C. Weir, 1914-1920 **SAUL DAVID**

WWW.MYFAVOURITEMAGAZINES.CO.UK/HOW/66M OR CALL 0344 848 2852 & QUOTE HOW66M



REASONS TO

- You'll never miss an issue
- It's delivered direct to your front door
- Brilliant valuesave money on the cover price

CHOOSE YOUR PACKAGE





*Terms and conditions: This offer entitles new UK Direct Debit subscribers to pay just £20.50 every 6 months plus receive a book. Gift is only available for new UK subscribers. Gift is subject to availability. Please allow up to 60 days for the delivery of your gift. In the event of stocks being exhausted we reserve the right to replace with items of similar value. Prices and savings quoted are compared to buying full-priced print issues. You will receive 13 issues in a year. Your subscription is for the minimum term specified. You can write to us or call us to cancel your subscription within 14 days of purchase. Payment is non-refundable after the 14 day cancellation period unless exceptional circumstances apply. Your statutory rights are not affected. Prices correct at point of print and subject to change. UK calls will cost the same as other standard fixed line numbers (starting 01 or 02) or are included as part of any inclusive or free minutes allowances (if offered by your phone tariff).

For full terms and conditions please visit: www.bit.ly/magterms. Offer ends 18th April 2019 Direct Debit Orinator's reference 768195





GREAT COUNTY

Roger de Hauteville rose from unscrupulous Norman brigand to become the legitimate ruler of Sicily in a long-drawn-out campaign of conquest in the 11th century

WORDS WILLIAM E. WELSH

small fleet glided through the dark waters at the southern end of the Strait of Messina in a nighttime passage to Sicily in May, 1061. Aboard the ships were several hundred Norman knights that made up the advance guard of an invasion force led by Norman commander Roger de Hauteville. The fleet sailed as quietly as possible to avoid detection by a squadron of Arab warships guarding the northern end of the strait.

After the Norman knights tramped ashore on an undefended beach, Roger led them north on a five-mile march to Messina. When his troops arrived before the south wall of the city, Roger ordered an immediate assault without awaiting the main body scheduled to follow in successive crossings. To the Normans' great surprise, the town was undefended. Roger's daring gamble had worked, and he captured the port city without losing a single man.

At the time of his assault the Muslim garrison was patrolling the coastline north of Messina. Since Norman raiders had landed in that area twice before, the Arabs expected them to do so again. In the years to follow, the Normans would funnel men and supplies through Messina to support their military operations on the island.

Apprenticeship in Calabria

A large number of Normans came to southern Italy in the early 11th century seeking their

fortune. They found plenty of work fighting for Lombards who resisted the Byzantine rulers of southern Italy. Among the more intrepid and successful mercenaries were the sons from the two marriages of Norman Baron Tancred de Hauteville. Three sons from the first marriage arrived in 1035. The eldest of these, William "Iron Arm", rose to prominence as Count of Melfi. Upon his death, William was succeeded by Drogo, who in turn was succeeded by Humphrey. From Tancred's second marriage several sons rose to prominence, the most notable of whom were Robert and Roger.

Robert de Hauteville, the eldest son from Tancred's second marriage, arrived in time to participate in a pitched battle at Civitate in 1053 between Humphrey de Hauteville's mounted Normans and Pope Leo IX's army of Italians, Lombards, and Swabians. The Normans took Pope Leo prisoner after the battle and they persuaded him to acknowledge their territorial claims and accept them as vassals.

Robert, who was dubbed "Guiscard" (Norman French for "the cunning") for his talents as a military commander, succeeded Humphrey in 1057. Two years later Pope Nicholas II elevated him to the position of Duke of Apulia, Calabria, and Sicily to reflect the Normans' growing prominence.

When Roger de Hauteville arrived in southern Italy in 1057, Guiscard helped his brother get

established as a local enforcer in Calabria. Under the terms of their arrangement Roger was to give a large share of his spoils to Robert who was his overlord. Roger and the other Norman freebooters routinely burned crops, plundered the countryside, and robbed travelling merchants to make their living.

Although Roger quarrelled with Guiscard over the division of spoils in 1058, they eventually patched up their differences and joined forces to conquer Calabria. When the Calabrians rose up against the Normans and killed 70 of their soldiers, Guiscard ordered Roger to crush the rebellion. In return for his services, Guiscard offered his younger brother half of the conquests in Calabria. Roger led an army south from his base at Scalea Castle capturing rebel-held towns as he went. When he reached Reggio, Guiscard joined him to besiege the walled town. Reggio fell to the two brothers following a brief siege in 1060.

Brush with disaster

From his vantage point in Reggio, Roger became tantalised by the prospect of conquering nearby Sicily. "[Roger] heard that Sicily was in the hands of the unbelievers," wrote chronicler Geoffrey Malaterra. "Seeing it from close at hand with only a short stretch of sea lying in between, he was seized by the desire to capture it, for he was always eager for conquest."



The Arabs had invaded Sicily in the 9th century and taken it from the Byzantines. In 1060 the island was ruled by several rival emirs. At the time, the population of Sicily was two-thirds Muslim and one-third Greek. The majority of the Greeks lived in the Val Demone region of northeastern Sicily.

Emir Ibn al-Hawas, whose base was in the southwestern part of Sicily, was enmeshed in a bloody civil war with Emir Ibn al-Timnah, who was based in the southeastern part of the island. A third emir, Abdullah Ibn Haukal, controlled the northwestern part of the island.

Roger conducted two reconnaissance raids to probe the defences of Messina. The first raid in late 1060 found Messina strongly held by the Arabs. The second raid in March 1061 narrowly averted disaster when the Arab garrison from Messina attacked the Normans at their landing point at Cape Faro, 20 miles west of Messina.

At the time these raids occurred, Ibn al-Timnah was on the verge of defeat in his war with Ibn al-Hawas. Deciding to offer his services to the Normans, he sailed to Calabria and met with Roger at Mileto before the second raid. Ibn al-Timnah proposed an alliance whereby he would assist the Normans in conquering Sicily in order to ensure the demise of his archenemy Ibn al-Hawas. Roger responded favourably because the al-Timnah would be able to furnish guides, provisions, and troops.

Cautious advance

For the invasion of Sicily in May 1061, the two brothers assembled 2,000 warriors, half of whom were mounted. As the more experienced commander, Guiscard participated in the invasion to ensure success. After Roger captured Messina, the Normans began strengthening the walls and ramparts, building new towers, and stockpiling equipment and provisions.

Once Messina was improved to Guiscard's satisfaction, the two Hauteville brothers marched into the Val Demone region. They established a forward base at Troina 85 miles southwest of Messina. The Greeks in the Val Demone welcomed the Normans as liberators, while the Muslim noncombatants in the region fled to safer environs. The Norman commanders studiously avoided sieges unless absolutely necessary, preferring to negotiate the surrender of Muslim-held towns.

The brothers then marched into the Dittaino Valley where they encamped at the base of al-Hawas' principal inland fortress at Castrogiovanni. A Muslim army sallied forth to engage the Normans in open-field battle. Although Roger's army defeated the Muslims, it found Castrogiovanni's citadel impregnable.

Death of an ally

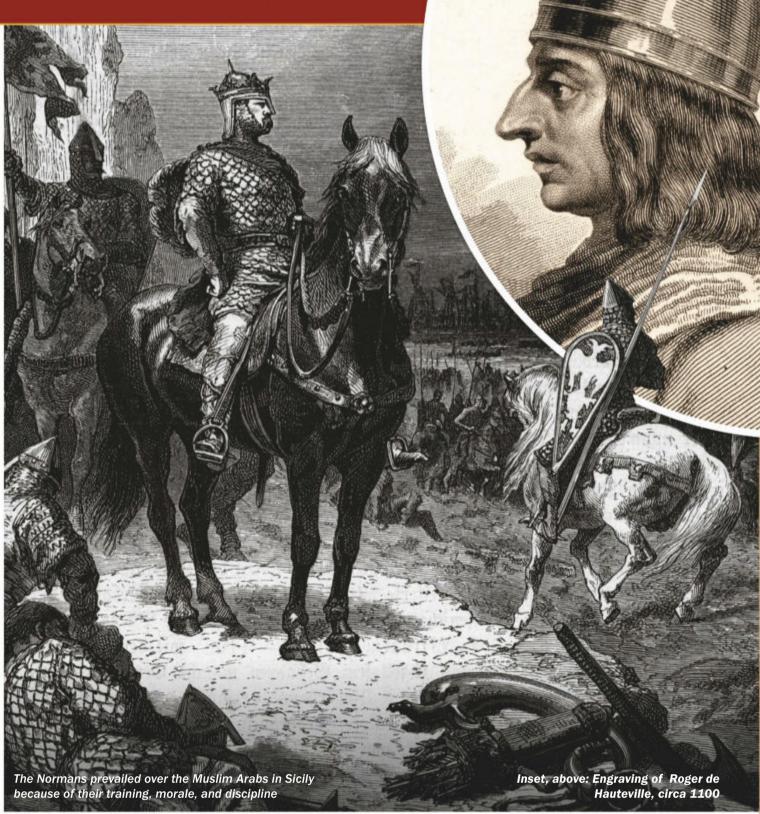
The Normans won nearly all of their pitched battles in the ensuing years as a result of their

superior training, discipline, equipment, and leadership. Yet Roger found himself hamstrung in the years following the invasion by severe shortage of troops. His main force on average numbered 100 to 300 knights, not counting auxiliary foot soldiers. He not only had to maintain an army for offensive operations, but also garrison captured towns and fortresses.

For this reason, the conquest of Sicily would not take years, but rather decades. In the early years, Roger had to return frequently to the mainland to recruit troops, secure his domains in Calabria, and assist Guiscard in his war with the Byzantines in Apulia. Nevertheless, the Normans had the full support of the Latin church because the papacy wanted to see the island under Christian rule. To inspire Roger and his troops, Pope Nicholas gave them a papal banner to carry into battle.

The conquest of Sicily largely fell on Roger's shoulders for Guiscard intended to devote most of his resources and energy to fighting the Byzantines. By 1062 the Normans had advanced their front halfway across the northern half of Sicily to the traditional Arab capital at Palermo. Roger was absent for part of the year, though, and when he returned he learned that Emir al-Hawas' troops had ambushed and slain his ally Emir al-Timnah. It was a substantial blow that would make Roger's conquest all of the more challenging in the years ahead.





Victory at Cerami

In early 1063, the Muslims regrouped for a counteroffensive, seeking to retake Troina. At stake was the Norman occupation of northeastern Sicily. The Muslim emirs in Sicily had appealed to the Zirid Sultan Temim of Tunisia for reinforcements, and the sultan dispatched his sons Ayub and Ali with a large number of troops to assist the hard-pressed al-Hawas.

Roger's small army took up a strong position on the high ground near the town of Cerami. The Normans withstood the Muslims' charge, and then launched a counterattack that routed the Muslim army. Roger tried to capture Palermo the following year but his army was too small for the task.

Although he was nearly always short of troops, Roger took great pains to hold onto the territory he had captured by not only strengthening existing fortifications, but when funds were available building new castles.

The Normans ultimately possessed a number of key fortresses scattered throughout the island, including Troina, Mazara, Paterno, Castrogiovanni, Calascibetta, and San Marco d'Alunsio. These fortresses enabled Roger to exert control over the surrounding area and serve as a base for conducting military operations against his Arab foes.

Capture of Palermo

Following his victory at Cerami, Roger destroyed Emir Ayub's army five years later at Misilmeri, southeast of Palermo. Guiscard arrived in summer 1071 with Genoese and Pisan mercenaries to assist Roger in capturing the capital city. An elite force of 250 Norman knights backed by 750 mercenaries arrived outside the walls of Palermo in August. Robert's fleet blockaded the city from the sea preventing it from receiving troops and provisions.

In early January 1072, the Normans fought their way over the walls of the city. The capture of Palermo marked the founding of the County of Sicily under Count Roger's rule. The Normans immediately improved the defences of Palermo to resist a possible counterattack. As his suzerain, Guiscard insisted on ownership of Palermo, part of Messina, and half of the Val Demone. However he allowed Roger to govern the island as he saw fit.

In his new position as count, Roger collected taxes and instituted a conscription plan whereby conquered Greeks were compelled to serve in his army. Roger then turned his attention to completing the conquest of Sicily. A critical test of his ability to hold Palermo occurred in 1079 when Arabs from Tunisia landed near Mazara on Sicily's west coast. Once again, Roger prevailed over the Muslims.

Although Roger had succeeded in conquering northern and western Sicily, the Arabs still had a firm grip on the Val De Noto region in the south-east of the island.

Guiscard died of disease at Cephalonia in 1085 while campaigning against the Byzantines. Roger did not allow his brother's death to impede his operations in Sicily. By that time the conquest of Sicily had become a war of sieges. Roger's troops built siege engines onsite to reduce the Muslim strongholds in the Val de Noto. The Normans captured Syracuse in 1085, Agrigento in 1086, and Noto in 1088. By 1093 Roger had mopped up the remaining resistance in Sicily and also captured the key islands of Malta and Pantelleria.

An impressive legacy

Count Roger reigned for nine more years as great count before dying at the age of 70 at Mileto. He had devoted 40 years of his life to conquering Sicily and then administering it after his conquest. His grasp of tactics and his inspiring leadership had enabled him to win a string of impressive victories against Muslim armies in Sicily.

Roger laid the foundation for what would become the Kingdom of Sicily, which his son Roger II established in 1130. The kingdom, which encompassed all of the Norman domains in southern Italy, endured for seven centuries.



Images Of War: Stalag Luft III by Charles Messenger is available now from Greenhill Books

THE GREAT ESCAPE IN RARE PHOTOS

A new book reveals what everyday life was like in the now infamous Stalag Luft III, and provides insight into how inmates brilliantly executed their escape plans

eventy five years ago, 76 Allied airmen broke out of a German POW camp in Saga, Silesia (which today is in Poland), by tunnelling underneath the perimeter fence to freedom. In February 2019, just weeks from the milestone of what has since become known as 'The Great Escape', its last living escapee sadly passed away aged 99. Former Squadron Leader Richard 'Dick' Churchill was among the 73 prisoners who were recaptured in 1944 – of whom 50 were murdered by the Gestapo.

Despite this last living connection gone, the real 1944 escape from Stalag Luft III remains a fascination for many. With rare photos that reveal the daily lives of prisoners, as well as the meticulous escape operations that fooled the German guards, *Images Of War Stalag Luft III* provides a view from within the camp wire. Spanning beyond the escape itself, the book also takes you through the final years of the camp's existence, as Soviet forces closed in and the inmates were forced into a gruelling march west. For more information on *Images Of War Stalag Luft III*, visit: www.pen-and-sword.co.uk.











Below: Colonel Friedrich von Lindeiner, Commandant of Stalag Luft III, May 1942 to March 1944. He was always correct in his dealing with the POWs and they generally respected him

Above: The camp forgers became masters of their trade. A fine example of their work is this travel permit for Bram Vanderstok to travel to Alkmaar in his native Holland. It certainly passed muster and helped him to make a successful 'home run'







To all Prisoners of War!

The escape from prison camps is no longer a sport!

Germany has always kept to the Hague Convention and only punished recaptured prisoners of war with minor disciplinary punishment.

Germany will still maintain these principles of international law.

But England has besides fighting at the front in an honest manner instituted an illegal warfare in non combat zones in the form of gangster commandos, terror bandits and sabotage troops even up to the frontiers of Germany.

They say in a captured secret and confidential English military pamphlet,

THE HANDBOOK OF MODERN IRREGULAR WARFARE:

". . . the days when we could practise the rules of sportsmanship are over. For the time being, every soldier must be a potential gangster and must be prepared to adopt their methods whenever necessary."

"The sphere of operations should always include the enemy's own country, any occupied territory, and in certain circumstances, such neutral countries as he is using as a source of supply."

England has with these instructions opened up a non military form of gangster war!

Germany is determined to safeguard her homeland, and especially her war industry and provisional centres for the fighting fronts. Therefore it has become necessary to create strictly forbidden zones, called death zones, in which all unauthorised trespassers will be immediately shot on sight.

Escaping prisoners of war, entering such death zones, will certainly lose their lives. They are therefore in constant danger of being mistaken for enemy agents or sabotage groups.

Urgent warning is given against making future escapes!

In plain English: Stay in the camp where you will be safe! Breaking out of it is now a damned dangerous act.

The chances of preserving your life are almost nil!

All police and military guards have been given the most strict orders to shoot on sight all suspected persons.

Escaping from prison camps has ceased to be a sport!



In 1944, after the Great Escape, the Germans issued several posters like this







AA28402 English Electric Lightning F.6 XS927/N, RAF No.74 Squadron 'The Tigers', RAF Tengah, Singapore, 1969 Scale 1:48 I Wingspan 220mm

Corgi is proud to present a 1:48 scale, highly detailed, diecast metal replica of the incredible English Electric Lightning F.6.

To order call 01843 233 502

(Telephone order lines are open 9am-5pm Monday to Thursday and 9am-3pm on Friday)

Alternatively go to www.corgi.co.uk
or visit your local Corgi stockist!

You Tube /officialcorgi

🥑 @corgi

f /corgidiecast

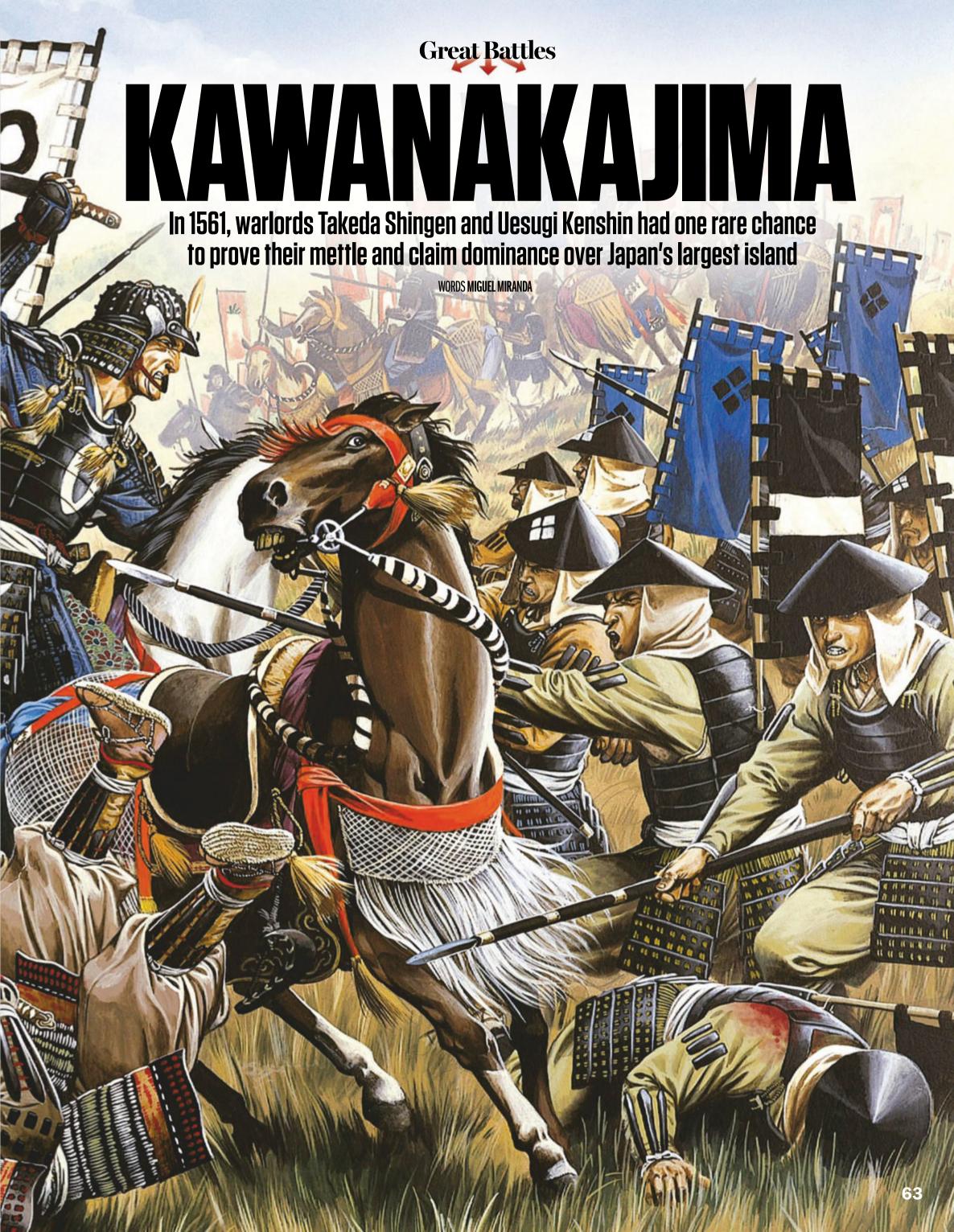
THE F.6 IS THE ULTIMATE FIGHTER VERSION OF THE LIGHTNING. It remains an aviation icon of the Cold War Period and one of the most significant achievements of the British aviation industry.

The Lightning was operated by the infamous No.74 'Tiger' Squadron of the RAF who's history can be traced back to 1st July 1917. No.74 squadron selected to welcome the Lightning into frontline service in the summer of 1960 also operating the F.3 variant as well as the T.4 and T.5 trainers.

With the Lightning Britain had its first true supersonic interceptor and one of the most potent fighting aeroplanes the world had ever seen. Charged with protecting Britain from aerial attack, everything about a Lightning mission involved speed, with pilots using the blistering climb performance of the aircraft to mount a 'Supersonic dash' to the target, returning to base, refuelling and rearming before repeating the process if the situation dictated.

The Lightning served to inspire a great many people to join the Royal Air Force and for many, is still an enduring symbol of when the British aviation industry was at the peak of its manufacturing prowess.







t was the height of the Sengoku Jidai (1467 CE-1603 CE), the terrible age when Japan's imperial system nearly collapsed among feuding warlords. As powerful samurai families vied for supremacy, either by supplanting their betters or conquering enemy domains, one particular rivalry echoed through the centuries to be hailed as an indelible part of Japan's national heritage. At the time of the Sengoku, two great houses, one led by a relentless military strategist and the other by a pious warrior, sought to expand their territory along the western edge of the Kanto Plain on the main island of Honshu. The struggle would drag

on for 11 years.

In the province of Shinano there was an empty plain called Kawanakajima where the Sai and Chikuma rivers met. It was over this terrain that the armies belonging to Takeda Shingen and Uesugi Kenshin faced each other on numerous occasions, but they never committed the full might of their samurai on a decisive battle. The reason for their enmity was direct control of Shinano; the Takeda clan wanted it added to their domain while the Uesugi deemed it a useful buffer to protect their own province, Echigo. In 1555, the two armies even camped

on opposite ends of Kawanakajima waiting several months for the perfect opportunity to conclude a siege. Despite the fact that the Takeda were on the defensive and had the advantage of possessing firearms, no decisive chance came and the armies withdrew at the onset of winter. Years passed, and in September 1861 Uesugi Kenshin was confident enough to once again mobilise his samurai and march from his fortress by the sea, Kasugayama. Echigo had prospered under his rule and he was well-regarded for his courage and loyalty. Born under the name Nagao Kagetora into a family of samurai retainers, the future Daimyo was made an honorary member of the Desugi clan and adopted the name 'Kenshin' upon taking a Buddhist monk's holy vows. Unlike many other warlords in the Sengoku era, he had no ambitions to vie for Kyoto, the Imperial capital and seat of the Ashikaga Shogunate that had perished decades before. Instead, the best years of his life were spent thwarting his nemesis, Takeda Shingen.

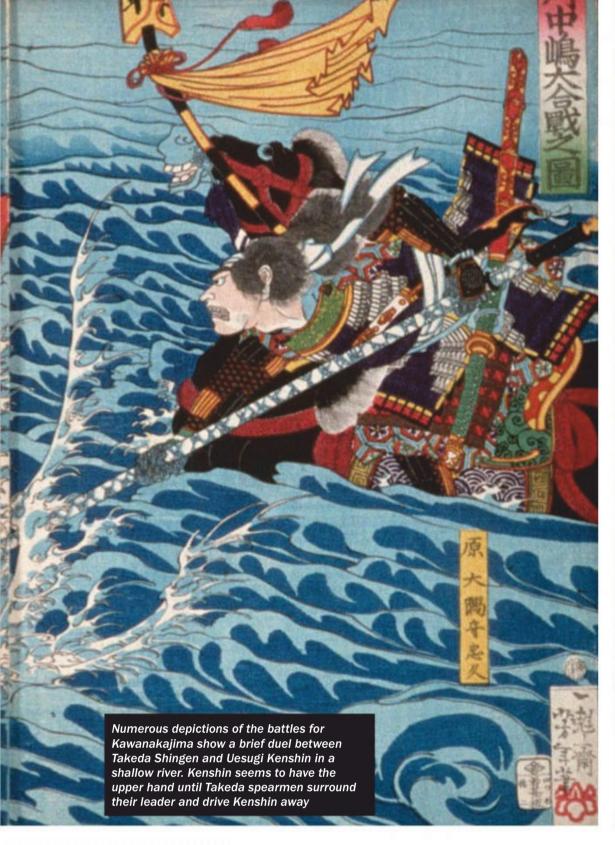
Kenchin's older rival was a formidable adversary who aspired to conquer a sizeable domain, surpassing that which he inherited from his kinsmen, whom he had imprisoned

leadership over the landlocked province of Kai. Barely 15 years old during his first battle, by the age of 40 Takeda Haronobu's hardearned experience and temperament made him feared throughout Japan.

Like Kenshin, he chose to rebrand his public persona with the Buddhist appellation

persona with the Buddhist appellation 'Shingen' to embellish his stature as a local ruler. Although an unrelenting taskmaster to his own samurai, Shingen cultivated a reputation for fairness when dealing with his subjects. But since he was never content with just the province of Kai, Shingen thought it paramount to seize a larger swathe of land in the west nearer the sea. This meant subduing the province of Shinano and the idyllic Kawanakajima plain with it, since it could be used as a viable route for commercial and logistical traffic.

Despite his successful attacks on Shinano that drove its rulers to exile, Takeda Shingen had little control over Kawanakajima and its mountains. For the sake of expedience, he maintained a fortress with a commanding view over the Chikuma river. This stronghold, called Eizo, was a modest affair by the standards of the time but it could support several thousand samurai and had ramparts strong enough for withstanding a siege. Unknown to Takeda Shingen, his arch nemesis Uesugi Kenshin





was already on the march and Eizo's token garrison was insufficient to repel a determined push from the other side of the Chikuma river. In the beginning of October a Takeda army, 20,000 strong, marched to the likeliest site for a decisive clash – Kawanakajima. A nominal alliance with the Hojo clan from the province of Odawara to the north, who were also feuding with the Uesugi in Echigo, provided a good enough casus belli.

By 15 October both armies were in close enough proximity for valuable intelligence to be gathered by each side. Takeda Shingen even observed the march of the Uesugi from his side of the Chikuma river. Once secure in the Eizo fortress Shingen was informed by his trusted military strategist Yamamoto Kansuke that the Uesugi army was encamped in the Saijoyama heights to the south east. This was clear proof

"BARELY 15 YEARS OLD DURING HIS FIRST BATTLE, BY THE AGE OF 40 TAKEDA HARONOBU'S HARD-EARNED EXPERIENCE AND TEMPERAMENT MADE HIM FEARED THROUGHOUT JAPAN" of Uesugi Kenshin's own intelligence. Holding elevated ground surrounded by forest, his army was almost impervious from attack. But the strategist Kansuke convinced his master that a narrow pass could be exploited for a raid on the Uesugi camp. Give him the right men, the Takeda strategist explained, and he would drive the Uesugi down to Kawanakajima.

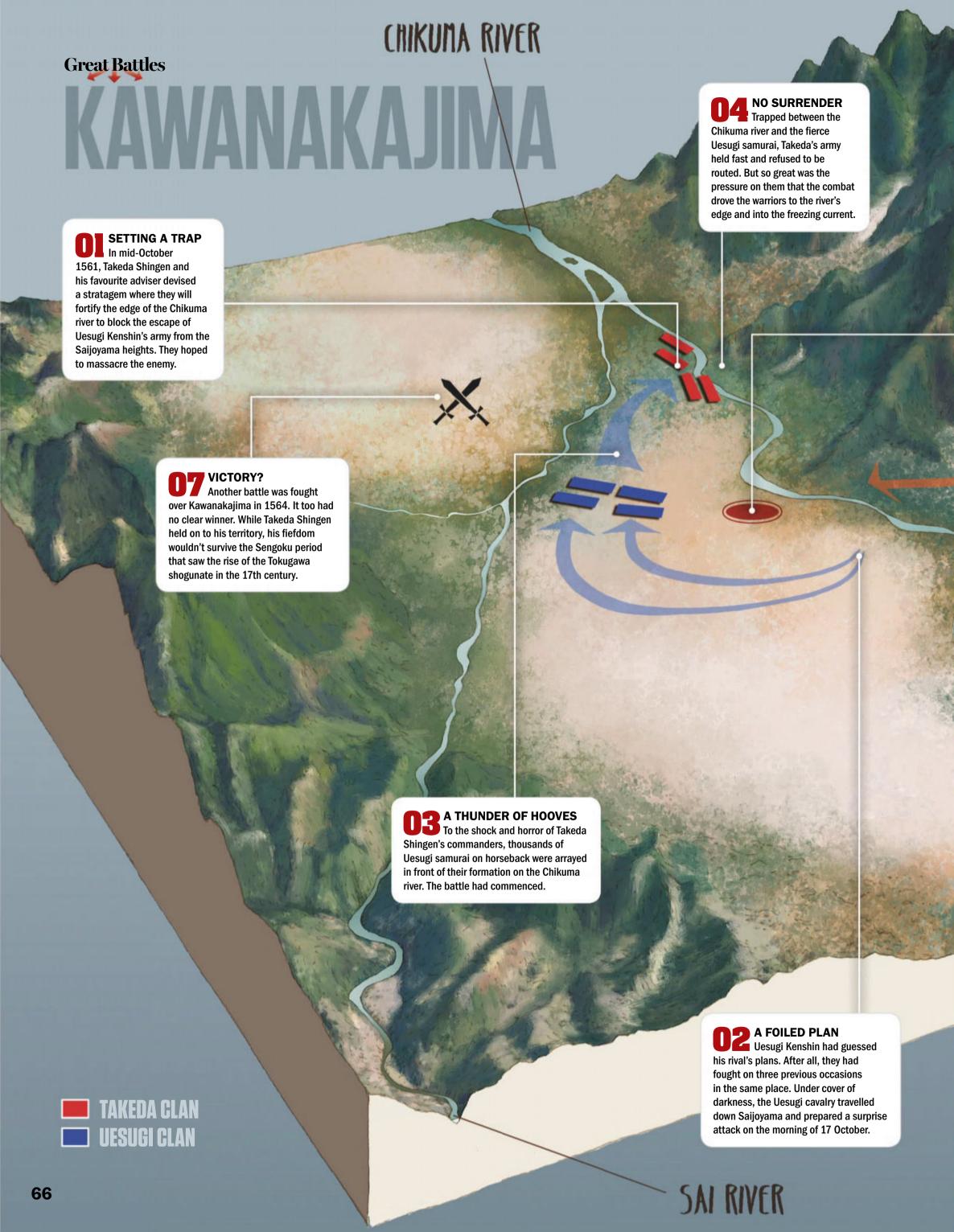
Takeda Shingen recognised the tactics at play as described by his strategist. It was like a hunt, where the beasts are driven from their woodland hideouts to flee. As they rush over open ground in a brute panic, armed men blocking their path are at the ready for the ensuing slaughter. The Uesugi should meet the same fate. Once in disarray as they escaped the Saijoyama heights, the fastest way to the safety of their lands was over the rivers. Takeda Shingen applauded his strategist and decided to lay the trap himself. From Eizo he would march the bulk of his samurai to the Chikuma river's western bank awaiting the Uesugi rout. Yamamoto Kansuke, on the other hand, assigned 12,000 samurai to a trusted general, Kosaka Masonobu, with overrunning the Uesugi encampment in a surprise attack.

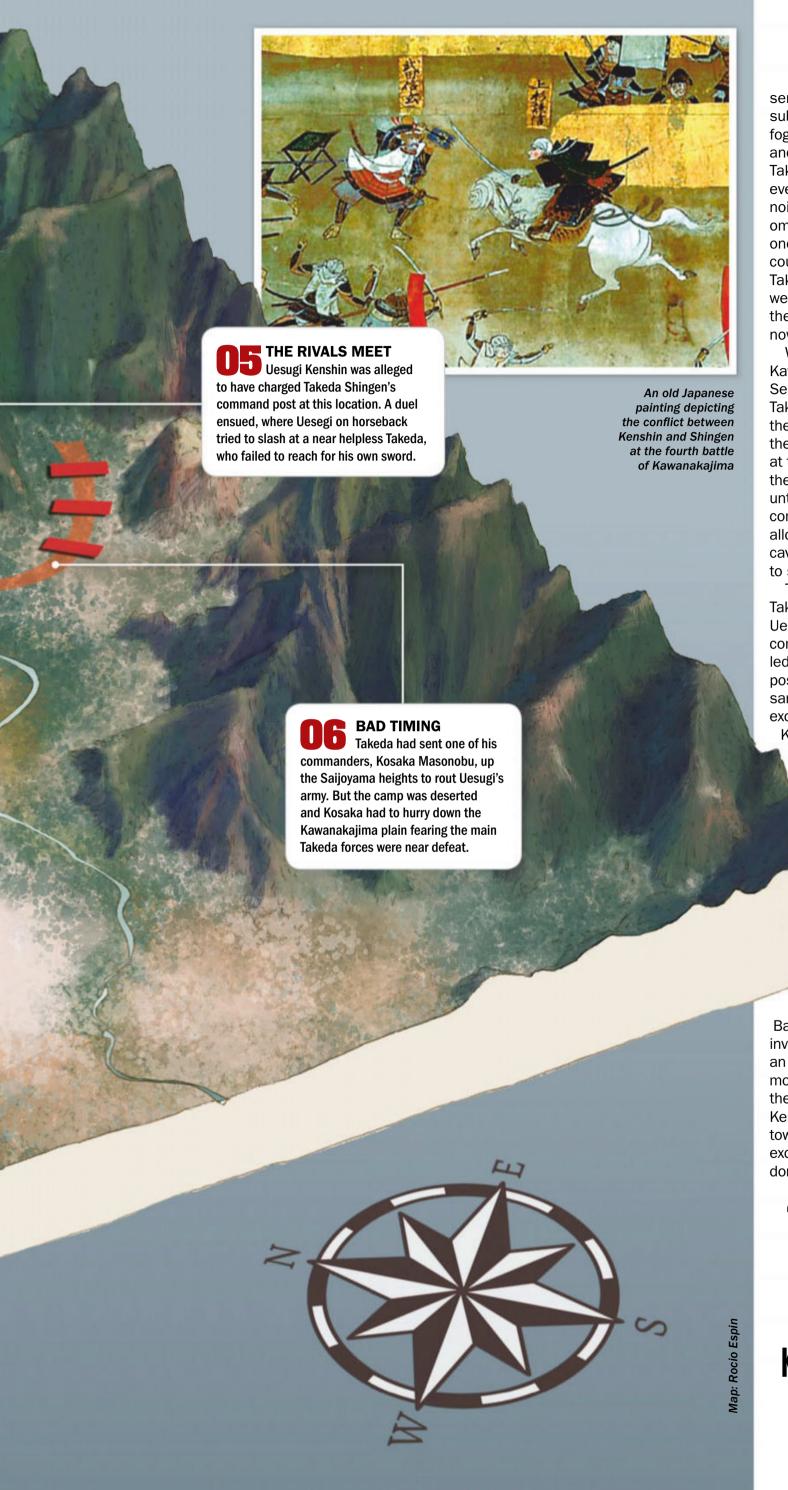
Turning the tables

Unknown to the occupants of the Eizo fortress their strategy was compromised before it even began. The daimyos (minor nobles under the shogun) and upstarts who bickered throughout Japan spent fortunes on their samurais' equipment – the Sengoku era saw the adoption of locally made Tanegashima muskets and other firearms – but placed greater value on critical intelligence. After all, outsmarting one's enemies could produce a greater effect than a mere battle over open ground. So on the same night the Takeda army set out from Eizo fortress, Uesugi Kenshin led his army down from Saijoyama.

How exactly Kenshin guessed his rival's plans has never been discovered. Perhaps a spy within Takeda Singen's inner circle had relayed his latest findings to the Uesugis. Yet conclusive evidence of this betrayal is non-existent. It could have been a combination of decisiveness and wits for Kenshin. Indeed the discipline of his army was such that an evacuation involving 18,000 samurai went unnoticed. Before daybreak the Uesugi army had traveled down Saijoyama and crossed the Chikuma river. Prudence dictated that the army's rear must be guarded, so Kenshin left 1,000 cavalrymen at a landmark called Amakasu.

Meanwhile, in the early morning of 17 October, an excited Takeda Shingen had arranged his 8,000 strong blocking force on the Kawanakajima plain ready to smash the fleeing Uesugi once Masonobu effected their retreat from the Saijoyama heights. The leader of the Takedas was so confident of victory that he remained seated in the small enclosure that





served as his command post while deferential subordinates reported to him. An impenetrable fog had crept down from the nearby mountains and covered the battlefield in haze as the Takeda army waited in absolute silence. Soon, ever so slowly, the fog lifted and a worrisome noise reached the arrayed samurai. It was the ominous rumble of approaching cavalry and once the banners held aloft by the horsemen could be seen it became apparent to the Takeda their day would not be easy. The Uesugi were rushing toward them, lances and bows at the ready, and Masonobu's own pursuit was nowhere to be seen.

What became the Fourth Battle of Kawanakajima spanned a single dreadful day. Separated from more than half their number, the Takeda samurai put up a valiant defence with their swords and spears. The Uesugi exerted themselves too, albeit in successive charges at their stubborn opponents. This tactic meant the Uesugi cavalry struck the immobile Takeda until their arrows and stamina were depleted, compelling a sudden withdrawal. Rather than allow for a moment's reprieve, another wave of cavalry descended on the Takeda, who refused to scatter in their leader's presence.

The singular moment of the battle involved Takeda Shingen's near death at the hands of Uesugi Kenshin, who had stormed his enemy's command post. Still astride his mount, Kenshin led a small retinue of cavalry and rushed the position. Rather than face a wall of loyal Takeda samurai, the enclosure was almost deserted except for Shingen himself, who was startled by Kenshin's sudden appearance. Not missing

the opportunity, Kenshin slashed at the Takeda daimyo, hoping to deliver a mortal blow. But Shingen, attired in full body armour complete with ornamental horns over his brow, blocked Kenshin's sword with his sturdy two-sided fan, which functioned more like a commander's baton. Before Kinshen could trample on the straining Shingen or swing his sword again to decapitate the Takeda daimyo, his horse was wounded by a spearman.

Dramatic reproductions of the Fourth Battle later contrived a separate episode involving the Takeda and Uesugi leaders. At an unspecified moment, Shingen was able to mount his horse and lead a counter-attack on the Uesugi, but was chased away by a relentless Kenshin whose head was wrapped in a white towel. This was atypical for mounted warriors, except that Kenshin was a devout Buddhist who donned religious garb even in combat. Wading

"SHINGEN, ATTIRED IN FULL BODY ARMOUR COMPLETE WITH ORNAMENTAL HORNS OVER HIS BROW, BLOCKED KENSHIN'S SWORD WITH HIS STURDY TWO-SIDED FAN"



into the Chikuma river, the two warlords slashed at each other with their swords. But the youthful Kenshin, who was just 31 years old to Shingen's 40, overpowered his rival and struck the Takeda daimyo's shoulder. Before the injured Shingen collapsed into the rushing currents beneath him, a group of Takeda samurai surrounded Kenshin and drove him away.

What almost ended the battle was the shambolic arrival of the 12,000 strong contingent led by Yosaka Masonobu, who were earlier tasked with attacking the Uesugi camped at Saijoyama. Upon discovering the position vacant, a worried Mosonobu led his samurai down the same mountain trail to reach the Kawanakajima plain below. Their momentum was almost halted by a strong detachment of 1,000 Uesugi samurai guarding a crossing on the Chikuma river. Sheer force of numbers allowed the Takeda to prevail and they soon caught up with the Uesugi. It seemed as if an encirclement was underway yet before noon the tireless Kenshin had reorganised his formations and effected a clean withdrawal.

"IT SEEMED AS IF AN ENCIRCLEMENT WAS UNDERWAY YET BEFORE NOON THE TIRELESS KENSHIN HAD REORGANISED HIS FORMATIONS AND EFFECTED A CLEAN WITHDRAWAL"

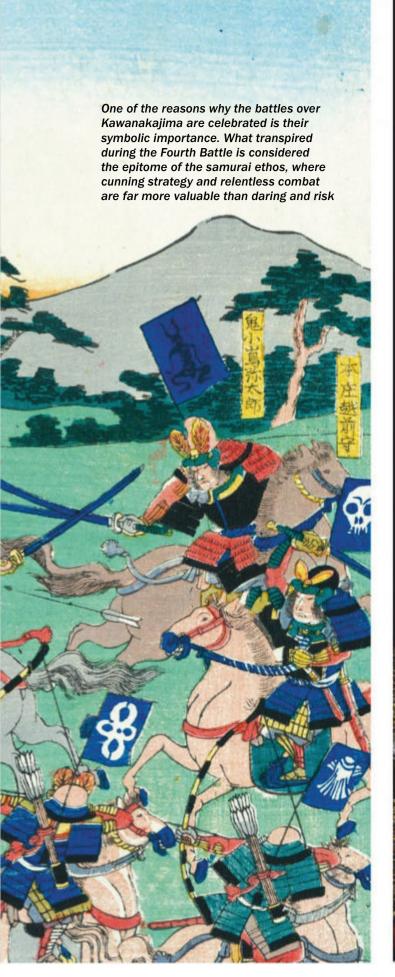
Nothing resolved

Distraught at his part in the failed Takeda plan, Yamamoto Kansuke led a final suicidal charge against the Uesugi in a bid to protect his master. Shingen's own brother Nobushige was killed in the ensuing combat when the Uesugi cavalry fell upon the Takeda by the river. Many favoured generals and veterans were among the dead that littered the plain.

No proper account of casualties on either side has ever been tallied in Japanese historical records. Neither did the Takeda and Uesugi leaders bother to write memoirs that detailed their own memories of the Kawanakajima campaigns. But the intensity of the showdown near the Chikuma river may have killed several thousand samurai. Such casualties were well above the usual battlefield losses during the Sengoku period, when daimyos preferred small clashes over great set piece engagements.

Neither the exhausted Takedas nor the battered Uesugis attained a clear victory on the fateful day. Still brooding over the battle's outcome, Takeda Shingen returned to his province after collecting the severed heads of Uesugi samurai as trophies. But Uesugi Kenshin survived and control over the Kawanakajima plain was undecided. Two years passed before another clash occurred near the site of the fourth battle, but the actions that transpired then proved insignificant.

Fate rendered cruel judgment on the two warlords. For Takeda Shingen, no conquest





was too far-fetched and he perished during a siege of a castle held by Oda Nobunaga, then the most powerful warlord in Japan. The Takedas's power finally ebbed after the disastrous Battle of Nagashino in 1575 when Shingen's son and heir led the clan's legions against their familiar enemy, Nobunaga, and lost countless samurai to musket fire arrayed behind palisades.

However, the Uesugi fared worse. Kenshin died in suspicious circumstances at the age of 49. One version of his demise recounts how a ninja waited in a lavatory for his target to arrive. When the chance presented itself, a mortal wound was dealt to the Uesugi leader – it's debatable whether the killing blow was a knife to Kenshin's rectum or some other sensitive part of his anatomy.

The legacy of the struggle for Kawanakajima, including the celebrated Fourth Battle where the Takeda and Uesugi armies fought to exhaustion, is ambiguous at best. While it ranks among the larger engagements during the Sengoku period, it had little impact on the course of Japan's history. The rise of the

warlord Tokugawa leyasu in 1603 marked the definitive end of the Sengoku period as another Shogunate was established, achieving for that which Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hideyoshi strived. The ensuing Edo period, its name taken from the Tokugawa capital, lasted three centuries and saw a flourishing of the arts. Depictions of the Fourth Battle of Kawanakajima date to the 19th century when woodblock printing encompassed different genres, including historical topics. It was in this later period when the drama and symbolism around the rivalry between the Takeda and Uesugi was popularised.

A familiar scene that has been interpreted for generations is the personal duel between a shocked Takeda Shingen and a furious Uesugi Kenshin. Shingen using his fan to block Kenshin's sword blows lends a touch of humour and poignancy in creative retelling yet it's curious how primary accounts that should describe the incident as it happened have never surfaced.

Even if it had little impact on Japan's history, the Fourth Battle of Kawanakajima is

useful for the lessons it imparts. Foremost is the value of sound intelligence for leaders who must decide quickly. Whatever methods and resources were at his disposal, Uesugi Kenshin turned a disadvantageous situation around and surprised his enemy by leading his forces out of the Saijoyama heights. In the process he deceived one part of the Takeda army and launched a surprise attack on the his rival in the Kawanakajima plain. Another timeless insight is knowing when to be flexible in difficult circumstances. Takeda Shingen had been overconfident about his plan to entrap the Uesugi, but once his samurai were caught between the Chikuma river and the attacking enemy, adaptation meant survival. The Takeda samurai did manage to hold off the Uesugis long enough to partially encircle them. But Uesugi Kenshi was wise enough to not press on and ordered a withdrawal that saved the bulk of his army.

Whether as a cultural artefact or a masterclass in strategic thinking and prudent leadership, the Fourth Battle of Kawanakajima will be remembered for generations.

Operator's Handbook

The world's fastest machine in its time, the S.6b laid some of the groundwork for the later Spitfire

esigned by a team led by
the legendary Reginald J.
Mitchell, the Supermarine
S.6b float plane was built with a
single purpose in mind – speed.
It was a development of the S.6, winner
of the 1929 Schneider Trophy, an
international maritime air race.
The S.6b was to enter the 1931
competition. After victories at
the previous two races, if the
British team (under the auspices
of the RAF High Speed Flight) could win
for a third time they would get to keep the trophy
and the competitions would come to an end.

The S.6b was built with an improved Rolls Royce R engine and numerous modifications to the airframe. It pushed the boundaries of technology in many ways, from aerodynamics to construction techniques, while the engine also broke new ground. R. J. Mitchell would estimate that the pressure of the competition pushed forward development at three times the normal peacetime rate, and certainly allowed him to hone the skills and knowledge that he would later pour into his masterpiece, the Supermarine Spitfire.

Not only did the S.6b permanently win the Schneider Trophy for Britain, it would set, break and re-set the World Speed Record in its short but spectacular life.

WORDS **STUART HADAWAY**

LIGHTWEIGHT AND STRONG

The S.6b was an all-metal cantilever monoplane with a semi-monocoque fuselage. The skin helped take the stresses, saving weight on internal structure.

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES

The Rolls Royce R incorporated numerous new technologies to provide an incredible output for its time. It was later adapted for land and sea use.

SUPERMARINE S.6h

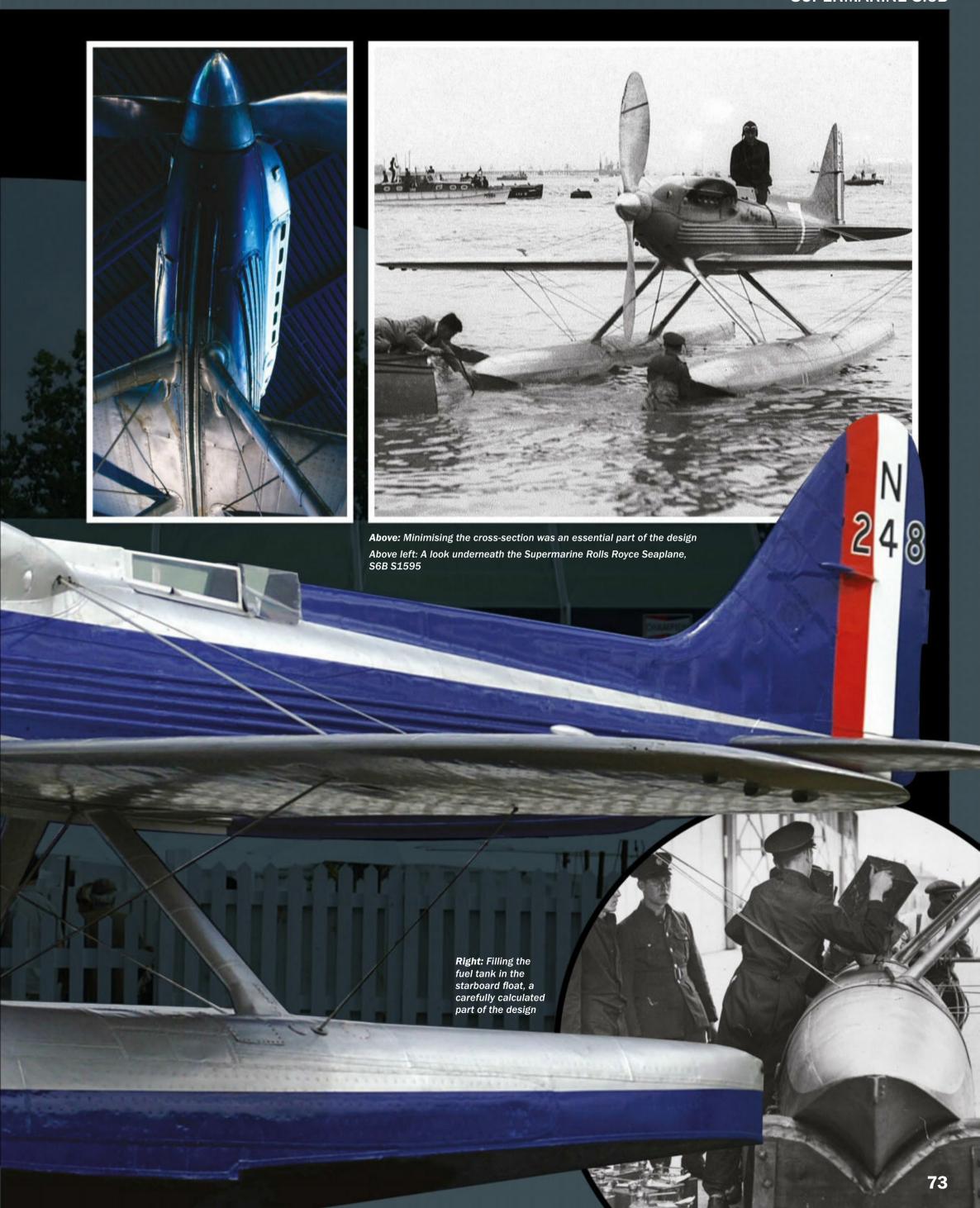
COMMISSIONED: 1931 ORIGIN: GREAT BRITAIN LENGTH: 8.79M (28FT 10IN) ENGINE: ROLLS ROYCE R, 12-CYLINDER SUPERCHARGED 36.7 LITRE CREW: 1 EMPTY WEIGHT: 2,082KG (4,590LB) FULL WEIGHT: 2,760KG (6,086LB) WING AREA: 13.47M (145 SQ FT)

A NECESSARY DRAG

The Schneider was a race for seaplanes, and the floats were a major limit on the designs. However, the S.6b found ways to make the floats work.







ENGINE

The Rolls Royce R 12 cylinder, supercharged, water-cooled engine was a ground breaking piece of machinery. Based on the Rolls Royce Buzzard, design started in November 1928, specifically aimed at powering the Supermarine S.6 in the September 1929 Schneider Trophy. After helping the S.6 achieve a new world air speed record at 355.8mph (572.6kmh), development continued. It pushed the boundaries in terms of materials, supercharging, and cooling as well as fuel types. The 1931 version could reach powers of 1700Kw (2,300hp), and again set new records. After the Schneider Trophy, modified versions of the R were also used in world land and sea speed record attempts, while much of the science and engineering learned was poured into a new aero engine, the Rolls Royce Merlin.



Flt Lt Boothman standing in the cockpit of his aircraft

The massive Rolls Royce R gave the S.6b its power, but also created immense drag and balance problems

COCKPIT

The cockpit of the S.6b was sparse and functional. Pilot protection in the open cockpit was minimal, with just an inadequate windshield in front. Spray easily coated the pilot's goggles, further compounding what was already a poor view. The controls were simple, with rudders in the usual places, a simple stick for steering, and throttle controls on the left side wall of the cockpit. Instruments were also basic, with very little needed for an aircraft only intended for short range and limited duration flights.

Below: The spartan cockpit of the S.6b





SERVICE HISTORY

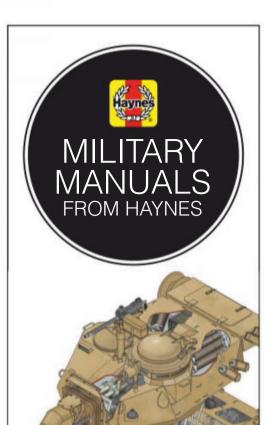
Two Supermarine S.6s were built for the 1929 Schneider Trophy (serials N247 and N248). Then, within months of winning that competition (and setting a new world speed record), the government withdrew official backing for the 1931 race. However in January 1931 aviation enthusiast Lady Houston stepped in with £100,000 to sponsor the RAF High Speed Flight. In the eight months until the competition, two improved S.Bbs were built (S1595 and S1596) and the two existing S.6S modified to the same standards but designated S.6as.

On 13 September 1931, S.6b S1595, flown by Flight Lieutenant John Boothman, won the Schneider Trophy for Britain for the third time. Later that day, Flight Lieutenant George

Above: S1595, the winning S.6b, now in the Science Museum in London

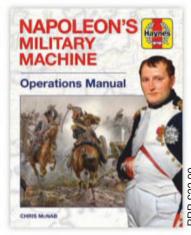
Stainforth set a new world air speed record in S1596, at 379.05mph (610.02kmh). On 29 September Stainforth took \$1595 up again to break his own record, reaching 407.5mph (655.8kmh) – the fastest any human had ever gone, and survived.

"AFTER THE SCHNEIDER TROPHY, MODIFIED VERSIONS OF THE R WERE ALSO USED IN WORLD LAND AND SEA SPEED RECORD ATTEMPTS"









AVAILABLE AT HAYNES.COM/MILITARY AND ALL GOOD BOOKSHOPS









WILLIAM LA TOUCHE CONGREVE

Already decorated for heroism, 'Billy' Congreve was killed in action after 14 days of ever greater valour. He was one of only three pairs of fathers and sons to have been invested with the supreme award for gallantry

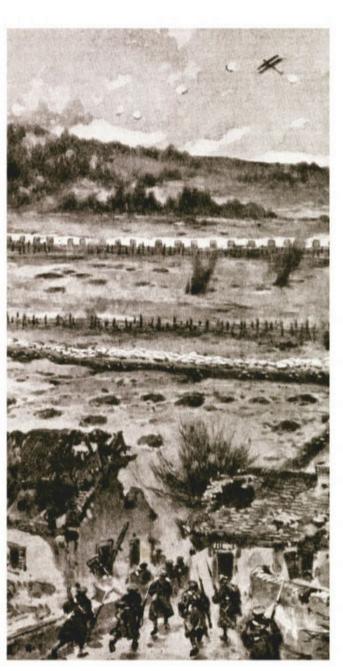
WORDS ANDY SAUNDERS

t would be true to say that gallantry in the service of crown and country ran through the very DNA of the Congreve family. From the Civil War through to the Spanish War of Succession and the American War of Independence, Congreves served with honour and distinction. Then, in the Second Boer War, Walter Norris Congreve (later General) earned the VC for courageous action at Colenso. For his son, William La Touche Congreve, born in 1891 and known as 'Billy', the die was set; after education at Eton he followed his father into the army, joining the same regiment, the Rifle Brigade.

A lieutenant at the outbreak of the First World War, Billy Congreve was sent to France with an almost immediate appointment to divisional staff. Notwithstanding this, however, he found himself very much in the thick of action – a feature of his time in France right up until his eventual death in 1916. Meanwhile, but then in another sector of the front, Billy's father was also still serving, but now as lieutenant-general.

After involvement in the early battles around the Aisne, Neuve Chapelle, Armentières, La Bassée and the Ypres Salient, Lt Congreve's war, going into its second year, would certainly quicken in pace and tempo. On Christmas Day 1914, however, he made a particularly fascinating diary entry, "We have strict orders to the men not on any account to allow a 'truce', as

Right: Hill 60 on southern flank of the Ypres Salient. A sketch of German position just before its capture by British on 17 April 1915

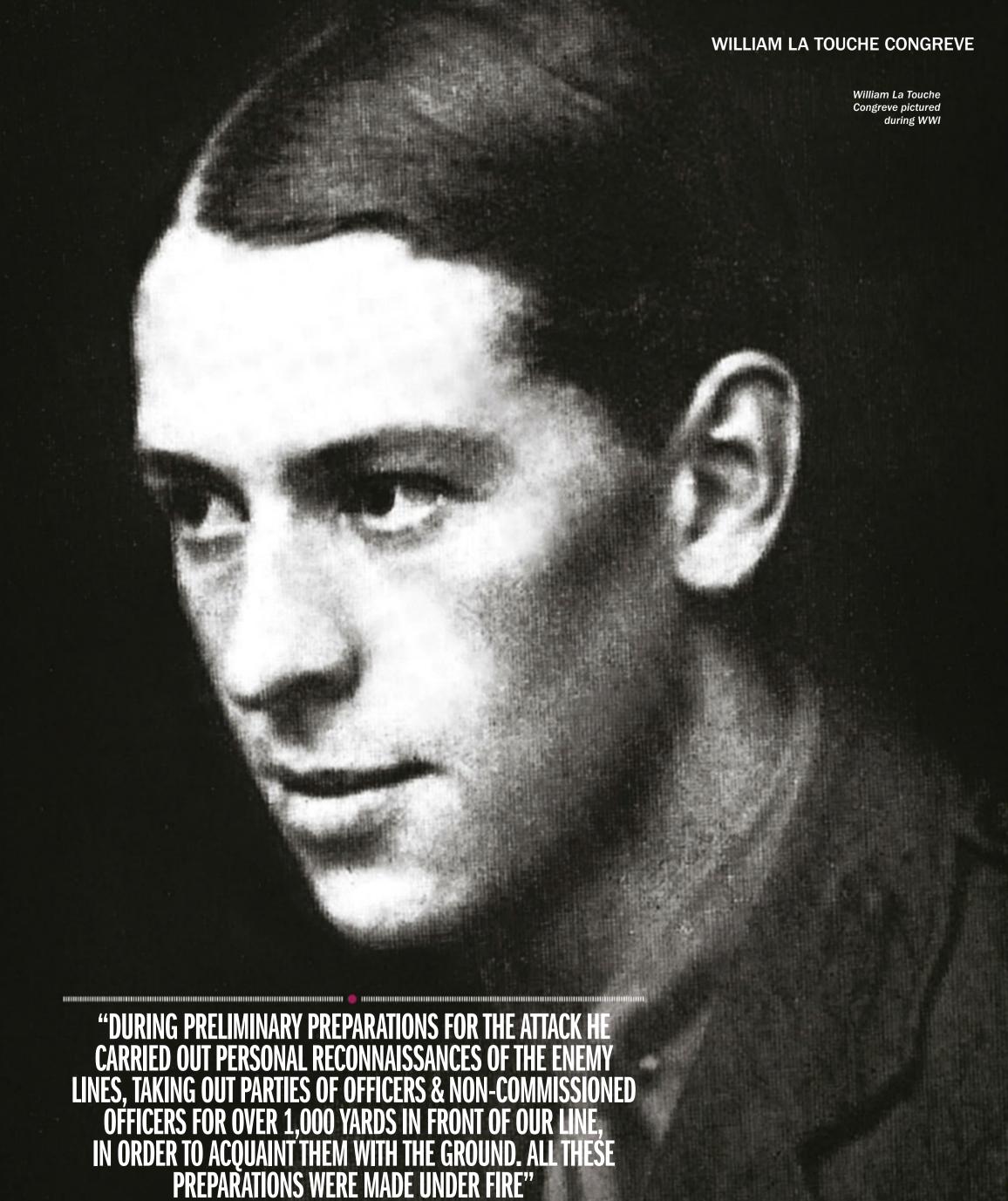


we have heard rumours they will probably try to. The Germans did try. They came over towards us singing, so we opened rapid fire on them. It is the only sort of truce they deserve."

If this war was brutal and bloody for Billy Congreve, it was about to get more so. It was also the case that the dying days of 1914 would confirm the concept of mobile warfare to have long since gone. A war of attrition and deadlock was to ensue with both sides at a loss as to how they might break the defences of the other.

By the end of January the army was locked down into trench warfare, and with Congreve noting in his diary the static nature of things. Then, during March, Billy noted a conversation with General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien when the general had apologised for there being no decoration for him in the recent *London Gazette*. For his part, Billy replied, "I should have been a good more surprised if [there] had." Clearly, however, his courage and reputation had already been recognised in higher army echelons.

By March, Billy was heavily involved in elements of a spring offensive as the fighting moved ever onwards – even if the front lines failed to. April that year saw the young officer encountering gas during actions around Hill 60, remarking, "The filthy brutes of Germans have a lot of gas which they carry in tubes, and turn on when the wind is right for it." Throughout that summer, the war moved back and forth, including the 'Second Ypres', albeit with little or no overall result other than to take the lives, on almost a daily basis, of many of Billy's brother officers.



London Gazette Citation for Award of Victoria Cross: (26 October 1916)





sniper operating from a field of standing corn sought the young officer out in his sights. As Sheen recorded, "Just as he said the word 'work', he was hit. He stood for half a second and then collapsed. He never moved or spoke, and he was dead in a few seconds."

The bullet had hit him low in the throat and exited from the back of his neck, with Sheen recording his death at 10.55am. It fell to Brigadier-General W. H. Greenly, the senior staff officer, to impart the sad tidings of his son's death to Lieutenant-General Congreve, "It was at a very important and critical moment. When I told him what had happened, he was absolutely calm to all outward appearances. After a few seconds silence, he said quite calmly, 'He was a good soldier'. That is all he allowed to appear, and continued to deal with everything as it came along in the same imperturbable and quietly decisive way."

Major-General Haldane, writing to Billy's pregnant wife Pamela, said, "Cameron, his faithful servant, is heartbroken. He tells me that he was anxious and remonstrated with him for working at such high pressure and going so much to the front line. I took one look at the dear fellow. He looked beautiful in his last sleep, so handsome and noble, and not a trace of pain on his face. I met men of my regiment (Gordon Highlanders) carrying wild poppies and cornflowers to lay upon him. His love for his brigade was amply returned by all ranks."

The very next day, Lieutenant-General Congreve travelled to Corbie to bury his son, "I saw him in the mortuary and was struck by his beauty and strength of face. I felt inspired by his look, and I never felt so proud of him as I did when I said goodbye. Flowers... had been sent... by some of the men. I myself put into his hand a

posy of poppies, cornflowers and daisies... with a kiss, I left him".

It would be the 76th Brigade's commander, Brigadier-General Kentish, who recommended Billy for the award of VC, his officers, NCOs and men having unanimously requested that his name be put forward for the nation's highest military honour. This time, there was to be no 'downgrade'. With the award being for consistent gallantry across two full weeks, its promulgation does not follow the general 'norm' for a single act of valour. Instead the citation gives us a glimpse of the intensity of action and of relentless bravery across a sustained period.

The VC was eventually gazetted on 26 October 1916, and on 1 November, Mrs William La Touche Congreve received the Victoria Cross, Distinguished Service Order and Military Cross from King George V at Buckingham Palace in what was described as a unique ceremony – no officer having previously attained this triple honour. For Billy's father, devastated by the loss of his son, the war was not yet over and in June 1917 he himself was seriously wounded, losing his left hand and lower left arm.

Of Billy, Major-General Haldane eulogised, "His splendid standard of duty, and great disregard for self, made him think too little to be done so long as anything remained to be done. He never spared himself... and [had] so high a sense of duty".

The younger brother of William La Touche Congreve, Commander Sir Geoffrey Cecil Congreve, 1st Baronet, RN, continued the family tradition of military service and bravery, being awarded a DSO for service in Norway during 1940 before being killed in action during a commando raid on the French coast on 28 July 1941, aged 44.

"WHEN BRIGADE HQ WERE HEAVILY SHELLED & MANY CASUALTIES RESULTED, HE WENT OUT & ASSISTED THE MEDICAL OFFICER TO REMOVE THE WOUNDED TO PLACES OF SAFETY, ALTHOUGH HE HIMSELF WAS SUFFERING FROM GAS & OTHER SHELL EFFECTS. HE FINALLY RETURNED TO THE FRONT LINE TO ASCERTAIN THE SITUATION AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTACK, & WHILST IN THE ACT OF WRITING HIS REPORT WAS SHOT AND KILLED INSTANTLY"

London Gazette Citation for Award of Victoria Cross: (26 October 1916)

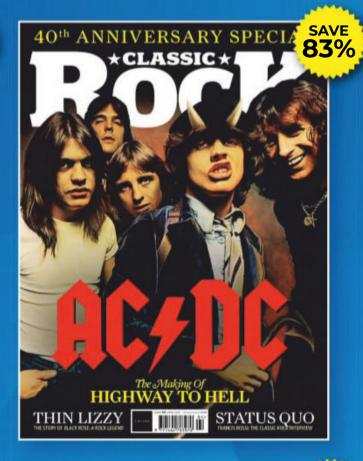


TRY 5 ISSUES FOR



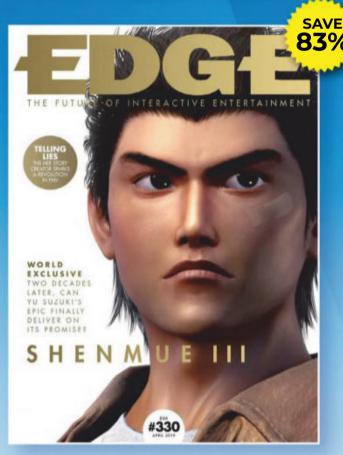
BIG SAVINGS ON OUR BEST-SELLING MAGAZINES















For great savings on all of our magazines, see the entire range online

myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/spring192

Order Hotline 0344 848 2852

*TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The trial offer is for new UK print subscribers paying by Direct Debit only. Savings are compared to buying full priced print issues. You can write to us or call us to cancel your subscription within 14 days of purchase. Payment is non-refundable after the 14 day cancellation period unless exceptional circumstances apply. Your statutory rights are not affected. Prices correct at point of print and subject to change. Full details of the Direct Debit guarantee are available upon request. UK calls will cost the same as other standard fixed line numbers (starting 01 or 02) or are included as part of any inclusive or free minutes allowances (if offered by your phone tariff). For full terms and conditions please visit: bit.ly/magtandc . Offer ends 31st May 2019.





IWM DUXFORD OPENS UP ITS LANCASTER TO VISITORS



THE LATEST MILITARY HISTORY TITLES TO HIT THE SHELVES



THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM'S PENINSULA WAR WATCH ON DISPLAY

www.historyanswers.co.uk







BEDEFINING



Speaking ahead of his appearance at the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival, historian Adam Zamoyski discusses the man behind the legend

WORDS TOM GARNER

apoleon Bonaparte famously rose from being an obscure Corsican artillery officer to a renowned general, which eventually led to him to become Emperor of the French. Despite being defeated and exiled in 1815, he is still considered one of the greatest commanders in history, whose military and political legacy endures.

Nevertheless, Napoleon also polarises opinion among historians who heavily debate his achievements, including the Polish-British historian Adam Zamoyski. The author of over a dozen books, including the bestselling 1812: Napoleon's Fatal March On Moscow, Zamoyski has now written a new biography Napoleon: The Man Behind The Myth, which is published by HarperCollins.

Zamoyski has stripped away the self-serving propaganda created by Napoleon himself to examine a fascinating human being. This new interpretation reveals a man whose will to succeed led to great power, but whose complex insecurities brought about his own downfall.

What was the idea behind Napoleon: The Man **Behind The Myth?**

It was really to try to find out what all the fuss was about because people go on about this 'genius' and God-like figure. The French often see him as a superhuman creature while the British seem to regard him either as a nasty little tick or a military genius. I don't really buy that he was a genius of any kind and think that term is usually applied to luck and a bit of hard work.

Above all I was interested to find out how this man – who was just a bloke – managed to crawl out of the absolute backwater of Corsica to not only become a remarkable general but then rise to supreme power. Also, to put it quite simply, what was it that made him bugger it all up? He was emperor of France and had the greatest army in Europe but he almost compulsively destroyed the whole thing.

What was the key to his rise to power?

In one sense the key is the military reputation he built up on his first Italian campaign. I'd been brought up to believe that Napoleon was brilliant and it was all done with panache and glory. There are all these wonderful pictures of him leading people across bridges with a sword in one hand and a flag in the other. Actually, it wasn't like that at all. A lot of it was pretty shambolic but it was interesting that he won battles. Many were little more than skirmishes but he mainly won because he really tried.

He studied the terrain, looked at where the bridges and water crossings were fordable and which passes you could get cavalry or artillery through. Napoleon was very good at seeing the mistakes made by the other side and responding quickly. Of course, during that campaign his enemies were traditionally drilled troops led by elderly field marshals. They were used to a completely different kind of warfare.

Napoleon kept turning up in their rear or on their flank and then disappeared by moving very quickly. He would appear where he had no business to and it completely threw all their calculations. He ran rings around them.

Also he inflated every single victory he won with propaganda. Skirmishes would be turned into major battles and he would send back reports that were largely fictional of the numbers of prisoners taken, people killed and guns captured. Napoleon gave the French public what they wanted to hear and turned himself into a hero. He was a combination of fact and fiction.

Considering his historical reputation, why do you consider Napoleon to be an "ordinary" man?

We have been fed by his own propaganda and a lot of historians have been fascinated by his success and swallowed it. They love the idea of the hero and people love a fairy tale. What is remarkable is that he was determined to succeed. He never sat back and put his feet up. He was always getting on with the next thing and whether it was wine, women or song it had to be dealt with quickly.

That's psychologically very interesting because he came from this background with a socially ambitious father and supposed noble status, which wasn't really that great. There was also no money so there was a spur to succeed. There was actually a stage where he was more interested in property speculation than advancing his military career.

Also, what people tend to forget is that once you've achieved a certain level, even if it's just as an officer, you can't stand still in a revolutionary situation. If you don't stab somebody else in the back, they'll stab you. It was very dangerous and many officers were being guillotined or imprisoned. Napoleon



REDEFINING BONAPARTE

had to make himself indispensable and unassailable and that's where the propaganda – the urge to make himself important – came through. I don't think it came out of vanity, it was a calculated, intelligent move.

He did have undoubted abilities. He was an "ordinary" man in the sense that he was as chippy about things as the next person. However he did have a very good deductive brain. He didn't speculate and would approach a question by saying, "What do we know? What is important? What is unimportant? This is what we'll do." He could make decisions very quickly and act on them. He also had a phenomenal memory and was intensely practical.

He was of course a remarkable man but what was really striking is that he turned what could have been a fairly average career into something larger, almost completely through propaganda.

What were his strengths and weaknesses as a commander?

Napoleon was absolutely great when he really tried. During his first Italian campaign he had to keep trying because every time he stopped another Austrian army would come pounding down the valleys. He had to keep winning

because he didn't have enough troops and had to strike hard.

The next time he really tried was at Marengo where he was extraordinary. He went over that battlefield about three times and then decided where to take up his positions to draw the Russians and Austrians in. He guessed that there would be all these puffed-up young Russian aristocrats with a lust for glory and more courage than brains. He knew they would fall forward into his trap, which is exactly what they did.

Whenever Napoleon really set his mind to it and thought it through he was pretty much unbeatable but he became less so with age. He got lazy, had bigger armies and just thought, "Why make the effort? Just chuck a load of artillery at these positions." He did this at Wagram and I think by then he was getting a bit disgusted with war.

During that campaign he keeps commenting on the carnage and he was already horrified by the casualties at Eylau. After Wagram he lost his appetite for fighting. He got old, fat and couldn't really be bothered.

Then, when he should have dealt with Spain in 1809-10, he spent his whole time having a protracted honeymoon. It's a very interesting

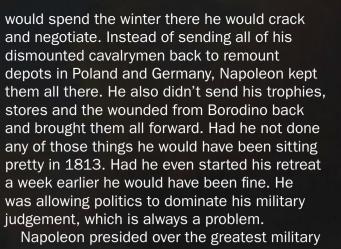
thing, Napoleon was a great tactician but no strategist. That goes for his politics as well as his military career. There was no master plan or defined aim. He wouldn't fix on one single ally and kept making provisional treaties. He was brilliant at improvising but you can't improvise all your life because the whole point is to achieve something. In the end it meant that everybody felt, "There's no point making peace with him because it won't last."

To what extent did the 1812 campaign in Russia expose Napoleon's flaws?

Russia was a classic campaign where the tactics were useless because of the terrain and intelligence. Napoleon couldn't do quick strikes in what was fought as a strategic campaign. The Russians didn't originally intend to retreat or burn Moscow but in the end they had to adopt something that was strategically sound. This meant avoiding fighting Napoleon if possible and to let him destroy his own army by taking it too far and not looking after it.

What's fascinating is that Napoleon was playing at power diplomacy and not war. He sat around in Moscow thinking that if Tsar Alexander I got the impression that he





Napoleon presided over the greatest military disaster in history and entirely blundered into it. It wasn't the Russian winter that caught him unawares because everyone had told him about it. His grand equerry Caulaincourt told him to get his horses shod for the winter but he ignored him and said that everything would be fine. He wouldn't take advice and if he had heeded any of it he could have avoided disaster. It was extraordinary.

How does Napoleon compare to other contemporary commanders?

My impression is that most commanders then were pretty hopeless. In the 18th century







armies there were professional generals who went into the military because they were the younger sons or minor noblemen who needed a career. If they were brave and relatively competent they would reach quite a high rank and then overall commanders were appointed because they were princes or archdukes.

Some of them may have been extremely brave and could rally troops but most of them were not really very competent.

For example, very few of them had knowledge about artillery range or tried very hard [to learn]. They didn't study terrain that well because the tradition was that you'd position your army, look at each other, fire a few volleys, move forward and see who would run first.

That didn't require a great deal of imagination and this was where Napoleon was different. This is also where Wellington was different. Most of his older contemporaries had been in America where they'd been hopeless but Wellington had been in the Maratha Wars. He had to keep a close eye on the ball and be careful with his men and equipment because it wasn't easy to find more. Nevertheless, I didn't get the impression that he was brilliant. He was rather a very competent commander who was careful with his troops.

I would rate Napoleon higher than Wellington in terms of sheer feats of arms. Wellington never won a battle like Austerlitz, which was an extraordinary victory. That took calculation, hard work and derring-do. Napoleon had more dash and that element of being able to wrench astonishing victory out of a very unpromising situation, particularly when he was younger. He was undoubtedly the greatest general of his age, but this was largely out of the hard work

The other thing that goes a long way to explaining Napoleon's success is the way he used to address his troops. He made those young men and they were an extraordinary generation. They were bred in the French Revolution and believed they were starting a new age. Napoleon built on this feeling and would shower the most lavish praise on them after a battle. He gave the French Army that self-confidence and dash, particularly in the early stages.

Although Wellington was very proper with his troops, it was a different style. He kept them steady and gave them the confidence to fight but Napoleon had a unique way of galvanising young men. You get accounts of people saying that they only wish they had a second life to offer him. These were not just Frenchmen but Italians, Croats, Portuguese, Spaniards and Germans – they all fought for him like iron.

How is Napoleon regarded in Poland?

The Poles loved him at the time partly because they hadn't shone on the battlefield for 100 years, but then suddenly won battle honours under his standards. They thought they were fighting for Poland but it didn't get its independence [from Russia] in the 19th century.

The fact that Napoleon actually treated Poland as a pool of manpower and cannon fodder is largely glossed over. He occasionally said that he would like to re-create Poland and this idea lingers that Napoleon loved the Poles. He didn't really, although he did have a few favourite aidede-camps. Above all, there were glorious feats of arms such as the Battle of Somosierra in 1808, which was the Polish equivalent of the Charge of the Light Brigade and the sort of thing that people get goosebumps over.

Prince Poniatowski was also a glamorous figure so they have a great fondness for the whole Napoleonic 'epic'. It is quite unfounded and irrational but you would have thought people would like to forget about things like the Charge of the Light Brigade!

Beyond Poland, Napoleon's international appeal, even in England until 1804, was extraordinary. There were large bodies of opinion that were fascinated by him and he

Zamoyski argues that Napoleon's career paradoxically declined at the height of his imperial power when he became "old, fat and couldn't be bothered' did seem to encapsulate the spirit of the new age. A lot of young people particularly thought he was their man and the hero. People like Goethe, other German writers and even British poets were initially bedazzled by him because there was a bit of Mick Jagger about him. People thought they could achieve glory under him, which many did.

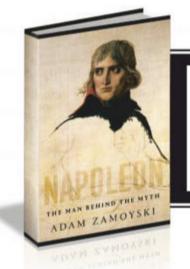
What was his impact on European history?

His impact is huge. He took all the practical aspects of the French Revolution and reinforced the idea that the state is the most important thing. It replaced the king and the individual existed as a servant of the state. The whole system, through which the state operated from the top down, became state-controlled. The idea that the system is regulated and everybody has to be qualified is also something that he imposed on large parts of Europe. Many countries then copied it and it certainly lies as the absolute foundation of the European Union.

The whole ethos of the EU is very much built on the Napoleonic legacy, including his civil code, and it may be one of the reasons that Britain voted to leave. It is so entirely alien to the English way of doing things, which is essentially from the bottom up and against regulation. By contrast, most of Europe has gone along with that, even if they continually subvert it. It is ultimately, in theory,

all about the state, which comes from the French Revolution. Nevertheless.

Napoleon enshrined it and put it into the basis of most modern Right: Adam Zamoyski has written books on the Napoleonic era. Polish history and the composer Frédéric Chopin



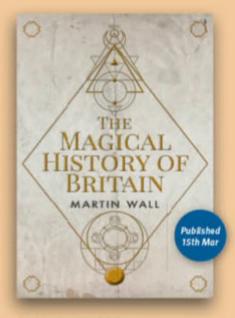
Adam Zamoyski will be speaking about Napoleon: The Man Behind The Myth at the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival on Saturday 6 April 2019 at 10am in Worcester College. To buy a ticket visit: www.oxfordliteraryfestival.org

NEW RELEASES FROM

AMBERLEY

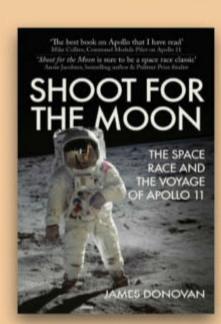


USE CODE: BOOKS03*



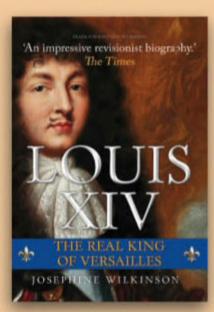
9781445677088 Hardback

£20.00



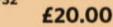
9781445691756

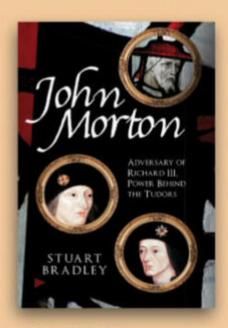
£25.00 Hardback



9781445691732

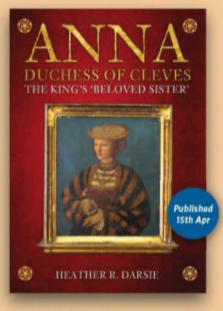
Hardback





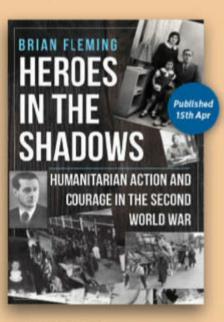
9781445679631 Hardback

£20.00



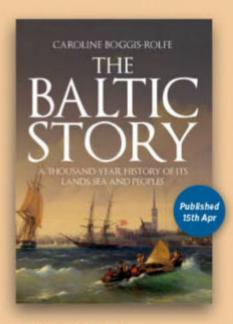
9781445677101 Hardback

£20.00



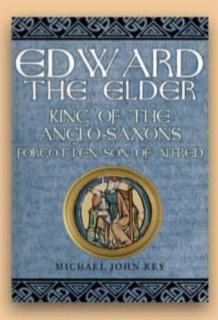
9781445687322 Hardback

£20.00



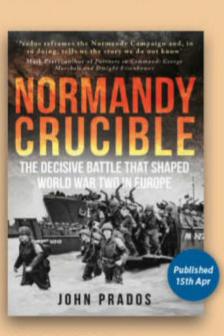
9781445688503 Hardback

£25.00



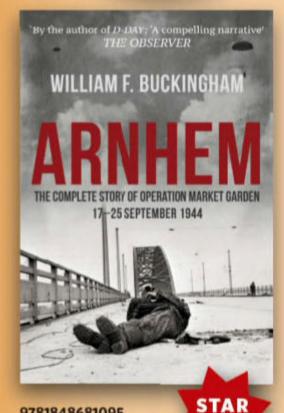
9781445684772 Hardback

£20.00



9781445678832 **Paperback**

£14.99



9781848681095 Hardback £30.00

BOOK After liberating Brussels and reaching the Dutch border, and encouraged by the seeming total German collapse, the Allies gambled

Germany itself - crossing the Rhine. This is the complete story of Operation Market Garden, 7-25 September 1944, revealing the most comprehensive and intimate account of the battle to date, day by day, hour by desperate hour.

their overstretched resources on a high-risk strategy aimed at opening the way into

Available in all good bookshops. Also available in Kindle, Kobo and iBook.

* Code only valid when you order directly from Amberley online, FREE postage in mainland UK only.





@amberleybooks



facebook.com/amberleybooks

Leading the way with local and

specialist History.

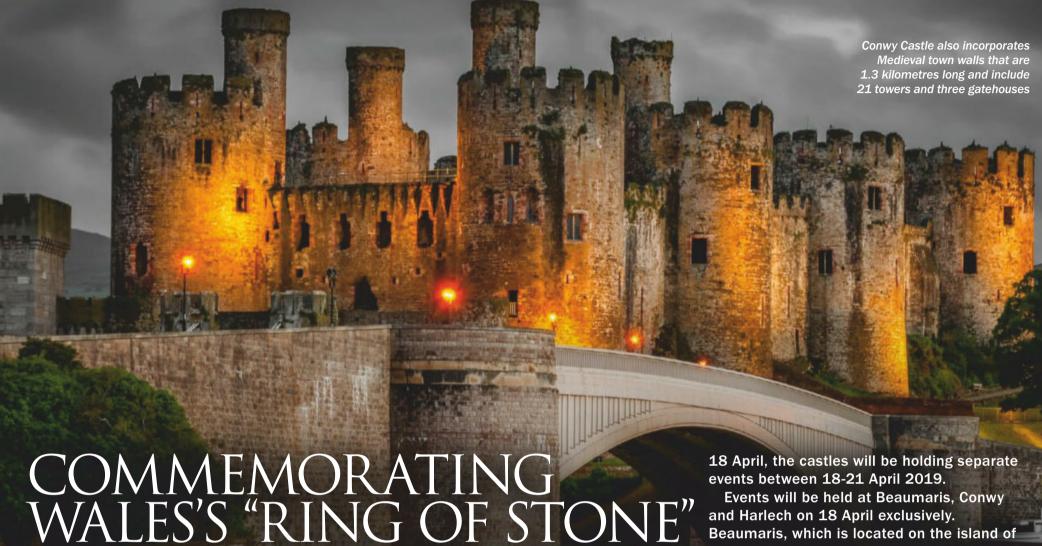
E. sales@amberley-books.com

T. +44 01453 847800

www.amberley-books.com

MUSEUMS&EVENTS

Discover events at Edward I's Welsh castles, visit Warwickshire's rebuilt Roman fort and take a tour inside a Lancaster bomber



Edward I's famous fortresses are celebrating decades of World Heritage status

The conquest of Wales by Edward I of England between 1277-83 saw the defeat of the last remaining Welsh principalities. Llewelyn ap Gruffudd, the last sovereign Prince of Wales was killed and the country became Edward's personal fief. The following years saw the king embark on a harsh policy of English colonisation and settlement of Wales. This dramatically manifested itself in the construction of a series of imposing castles.

Known as the "ring of stone" around north Wales, the castles of Beaumaris, Caernarfon, Conwy and Harlech were masterpieces of military engineering and remain dramatic structures in the Welsh landscape. They played an important role in local conflicts across the centuries including the revolt of Owain Glyndwr, the Wars of the Roses and the British Civil Wars.

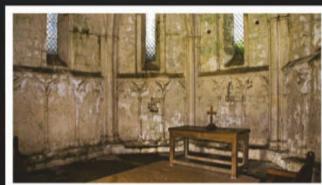
gernarfon was the hirthplace of Edward II and oversaw the investitures of two Princes of Wales in 1911 for the future

Edward VIII and 1969 for the present Prince Charles king, not the garrison

Although the quartet of fortresses are now in various states of ruin, the historian Sidney Toy described them as "some of the most powerful castles of any age or country". They were ultimately designated as a combined UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986 as the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd. The organisation considers them to be the "finest examples of late 13th century and early 14th century military architecture in Europe".

All four castles are now operated as major tourist attractions by the Welsh government heritage agency, Cadw. In keeping with their status as globally recognised historical sites, the castles will be holding special events to celebrate World Heritage Day. Approved by UNESCO in 1983 and traditionally held on

Beaumaris's chapel was built into one of the towers and was designed to be used by the



18 April, the castles will be holding separate events between 18-21 April 2019.

Events will be held at Beaumaris, Conwy and Harlech on 18 April exclusively. Beaumaris, which is located on the island of Anglesey, will be providing traditional Welsh music in the recently refurbished chapel. There will also be jester workshops and guided tours about the castle's history.

Conwy will also be providing tours while Harlech is providing a tour by bus. The bus includes a conductor and guide who will provide a ground-level tour of the castle before encouraging visitors to explore the ramparts and towers.

As the largest and most complete castle of the four, Caernarfon is commemorating World Heritage Day on the weekend of 20-21 April. The castle is home to the Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum and re-enactors from the 23rd Royal Welch Fusiliers Regiment of Foot will set up camp inside fortress. Visitors will be able to experience the sights and sounds of 19th century warfare courtesy of the resident redcoats.

The 1461-68 Siege of Harlech became the inspiration for the military marching song Men Of Harlech



Inside bomber command's "shining <u>sword"</u>

Visitors can climb aboard a Lancaster bomber during a "behind-the-ropes" exploration at IWM Duxford

IWM Duxford in Cambridgeshire is a branch of the Imperial War Museum and is Britain's largest aviation museum. It houses nearly 200 aircraft, military vehicles and minor naval vessels in seven main exhibition buildings and is based on the historic Duxford Aerodrome.

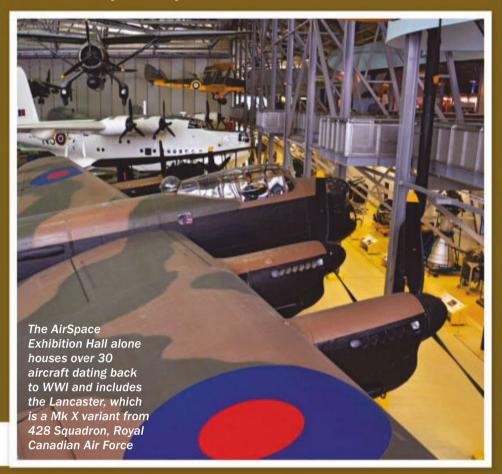
Originally operated by the Royal Air Force during WWI, Duxford played a prominent role during WWII when it was heavily used during the Battle of Britain and later in the war by the US Army Air Forces' fighter units.

Among the many WWII-era aircraft housed in the museum is an Avro Lancaster. The most famous and successful heavy bomber of the war, the Lancaster was described by Sir Arthur Harris as the "shining sword" of RAF Bomber Command.

Between 1 February and 17 April, the museum is hosting 'The Inside View: The Lancaster' where visitors can participate in a 'behind-the-ropes' exploration of the aircraft. Expert IWM guides will begin by talking about the bomber's history for 45 minutes before visitors will enter the Lancaster through the rear of the fuselage.

Once inside, a 10-minute session reveals the heroism of the young men in Bomber Command along with the harsh conditions they faced in combat. Tours run twice daily and tickets are subject to availability although it is recommended that visitors book in advance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.IWM.ORG.UK/EVENTS



-DEFEATING BOUDICCA'S REVOLT

The partially reconstructed Lunt Roman Fort in Baginton, Warwickshire is reopening for the Easter Holidays

Between c.60-61 CE, the Iceni tribe of East Anglia rebelled against Roman rule under the leadership of their queen, Boudicca. The uprising was extremely bloody and almost overthrew the imperial regime before it was finally defeated. What is now the English Midlands became a highly militarised zone and the Romans built at least five forts, including the Lunt.

Located in Baginton, Warwickshire, the Lunt was close to the junction of two major Roman roads and situated on a high plateau. It could house hundreds of troops and may have been constructed to quell the last remnants of Boudicca's uprising.

The fort was abandoned approximately 20 years after its construction but its existence was rediscovered in the 1930s. It was partially rebuilt during the 1970s based upon original foundations and archaeological evidence to give a realistic interpretation of Roman military life. Reconstructions include a section of the wall, a gateway modelled on images from Trajan's Column, a granary and a unique 'gyrus' arena, which is believed to have been used for training horses.

The Lunt is closed over the winter months but it will be reopening to the public for the Easter holidays from 15-26 April 2019. It is also open for the summer holidays and October half term.



mages: Alamy

HISTORY WAR FILLS

Our pick of the latest military history films and books

· THE AFTERMATH -

A TURGID ROMANCE BETWEEN A GERMAN AND A MILITARY SPOUSE SET AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THE ALLIED RECONSTRUCTION OF GERMANY

Director: James Kent Distributor: Fox Searchlight Pictures Stars: Keira Knightley, Jason Clarke, Alexander Skarsgård Released: 1 March

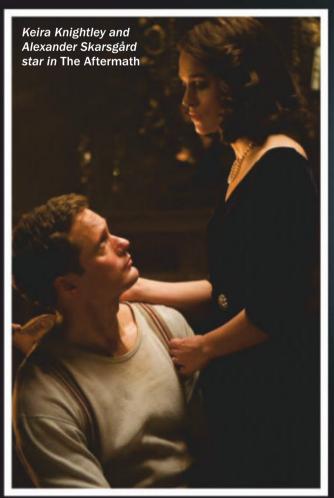
Wartime-themed melodramas are James Kent's bread and butter. On the back of 2014's *Testament Of Youth*, based on Vera Brittain's WWI memoir, the director has moved forward to the second global conflict. More specifically, the Allied reconstruction of Germany and rehabilitation of its defeated people. Based on Rhidian Brook's well-received 2013 novel, Kent's screen adaptation is weak as a historic saga and even less convincing as a romantic weepie. Crafted in a limp style which screams a certain type of middlebrow British cinema – classy but airless, handsome-looking yet resolutely dull, safe and undemanding – the result is a love story on rations and a drama which self-destructively scuppers a fascinating and potent post-war backdrop.

In the winter of 1946, Colonel Lewis Morgan (Jason Clarke) is posted to Hamburg, overseeing the city's denazification process, using what was known as the fragebogen, a questionnaire made up of 133 questions designed to clear folk or root out war criminals. As a high-ranking officer, Morgan is billeted at the villa of a former architect (now factory worker). Instead of throwing Herr Lubert (Alexander Skarsgård) out on his ear, he invites the elegant, quiet ex-owner to stay on, along with his resentment-filled teenage daughter, as an attempt to show off his humanity and desire to build bridges between nations. Col Morgan is, as the Brits would say, a good egg.

The villa is essentially a metaphor and symbol for forgiveness. It works on two levels: the personal and the political. Morgan's wife, Rachael (Keira Knightley), accompanying her husband abroad, is grossly offended when she discovers Lubert is living in the attic, but over the course of the film, her xenophobia softens and she ends up falling hard for the strapping German, while her clueless other half is off chasing Werewolves, the Hitler-till-l-die sect who waged campaigns in the aftermath of WWII, refusing to give up their Third Reich dream.

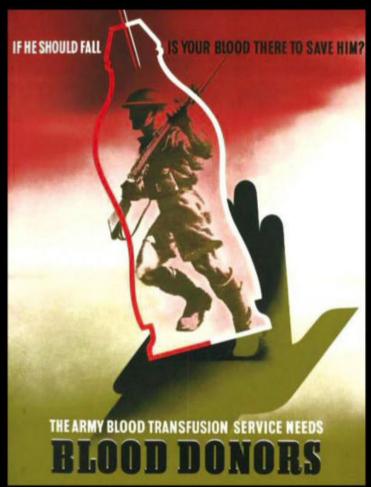
On paper, the Knightley-Skarsgård pairing should be a prospect hotter than the sun. The duo aim for the stars and hit Dresden, to quote Hollywood filmmaker William Friedkin's WWII-themed description, of what it feels like to have the best intentions only to fail miserably. The chemistry between them is non-existent, and no amount of editing can paper over this failure in casting. Moments between Rachael and Lubert should tingle with unspoken longing and desire, but the lack of spark leads to a romance blackout, while the inclusion of an explicit sex scene is a gratuitous bid to inject turgid proceedings with a bit of spice. It's a lost cause.

With the Knightley-Skarsgård duo proving a V2 rocket exploding at launch, Jason Clarke is left to soldier on alone. His portions of the film, Morgan witnessing the grim realities of post-war Germany, are easily the most involving. An effective performance in a mediocre flick, the Aussie actor portrays wounded male pride and classic Brit emotional repression with aplomb. **MC**

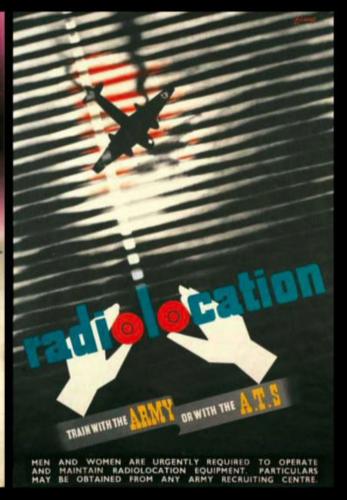












ABRAM GAMES

PRODUCING SOME OF WWII'S MOST ICONIC PROPAGANDA AND INFORMATION POSTERS, THE WARTIME SERVICE OF THIS WORLD-FAMOUS DESIGNER IS EXPLORED HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME

Author: Naomi Games Publisher: Amberley Price: £16.99

Abram Games was born into a world engulfed in violence and turmoil. His birth in 1914 took place the day after Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, igniting the First World War. Games's parents had emigrated from Latvia and Russo-Poland to Whitechapel in London's East End, where the future 'Official British War Poster Artist' of the Second World War received his education at St Martin's School of Art.

From his earliest childhood, Games was determined to become an artist. His ambition was to lead him to become one of the most outstanding graphic designer of the 20th century. Games was possessed of the fighting spirit that characterised many Jewish immigrants who had fled the persecution of anti-Semitic societies. He marched in Whitechapel against Oswald Mosley's fascist Blackshirts and he became involved with the National Joint Committee for Spanish relief, which supported Republican Spain in the Spanish Civil War. This was when he designed some of his earliest war posters.

Games was called up for army service in 1940. Within a year, his talents as a graphic artist caused him to be posted to the War Office, where he designed 100 classic wartime posters. He never felt comfortable holding down a desk job while soldiers were risking their lives on the battlefield. When he took his request to return to active service to Major-General Edward Lawson, Director of Public Relations, the thundering reply was, "You have been appointed to do a job and as far as the army is concerned, you are the only man who can do this and you will bloody well get on and do it!" Games was obliged to reconcile

ABRAM GAMES
HIS WARTIME WORK

NAOMI
GAMES

"YOU ARE THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN DO THIS AND YOU WILL BLOODY WELL GET ON AND DO IT!"

himself to the fact that his work was essential to the war effort.

This book by the author's daughter Naomi Games is the only work published to date that focuses exclusively on her father's war work. During his seven years in army service, Games produced a number of posters of lasting impact which, when viewed today, make it hard to repress a swell of nostalgia for those 'stiff upper lip' days of 1939-45. His highly-successful Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) Blonde Bombshell recruiting poster remains an unforgettable image, so too the art deco-style art works for the Commando Medical Service and the dramatic images of the 'Talk Kills' posters.

The subject matter of Games's posters was aimed primarily at the fighting forces, but they were not always concerned with military matters. The topics ranged from maintaining healthy teeth to the treatment of scabies. Likewise, those on the home front were encouraged to knit – 'Our Jungle Fighters Want Socks' –, give clothing 'For Liberated Jewry' and he also designed posters for wartime films, like *The Way Ahead*, starring David Niven.

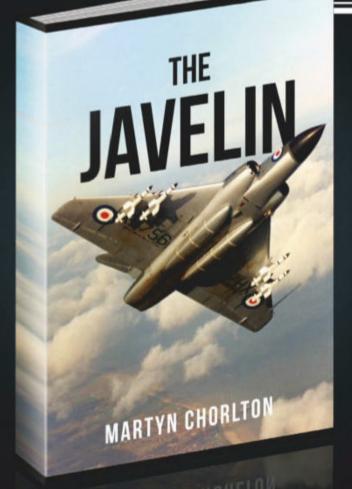
The poster Games was most proud of and wanted to be remembered for was part of a 'Careless Talk' campaign within the army. 'Your Talk' gives a direct pictorial warning against loose gossip. The poster was used to link up with the Ealing Studio propaganda film *The Next Of Kin* and featured in the War Office film, *Breathing Space*. This book offers a rich, visual portrayal of Games's work and the man behind the many posters that have become icons of wartime Britain. **JS**

THE JAVELIN

BRITAIN'S UNSUNG COLD WAR WARRIOR IS GIVEN MUCH DESERVED ATTENTION IN THIS THOROUGH TRIBUTE TO ITS ACHIEVEMENTS

Author: Martyn Chorlton Publisher: Amberley

Price: £15.99



The Gloster Javelin has long been an unsung Cold War hero. An all-weather, day and night interceptor, it guarded British skies between 1956 and 1968, while also serving in Germany, Cyprus, the east during the Indonesian 'Confrontation', and in Zambia during the Rhodesian Crisis. Often overshadowed by more famous fighter types, the Javelin was also the Gloster Aircraft Company's last production aircraft, going through nine operational and one training mark in its short career. Its distinctive delta-winged design was one of a kind, and was typical of the advanced nature of the aircraft.

This short book is a fitting tribute to the brief but significant life of the Javelin. Starting with the story behind the development of

the design, the author takes us through the production and testing of the prototypes, a brief description of each of the marks, an overview of their service history with the RAF (with a separate chapter on 'second line' training and support units), and then a look at each of the major overseas deployments.

It ends with the technical specifications of each type and a list of units and their operational dates. The focus of the text is the aircraft itself, rather than the crews who flew them, with the concise text concentrating on the facts and figures of the type and its history. Throughout, the book is very well illustrated with 140 photographs, each with a detailed caption. **SH**

PANHARD ARMOURED CAR 1961 ONWARDS (AML60, AML 90 AND ELAND) ENTHUSIASTS' MANUAL

A TRULY 'UNIVERSAL' ARMOURED CAR, BROKEN DOWN IN BRILLIANT CHARACTERISTIC TECHNICAL DETAILS

Authors: Simon Dunstan Publisher: Haynes Publishing Price: £25.00

Designed in France in the late 1950s, the Panhard Armoured Car (in its various types) was so popular that it would be kept in production until 1987, with nearly 5,000 being built. After being developed as a heavily armed reconnaissance vehicle for the French Army, it went into service with over 50 other countries around the world for internal security, peace keeping, and war fighting, especially in Africa.

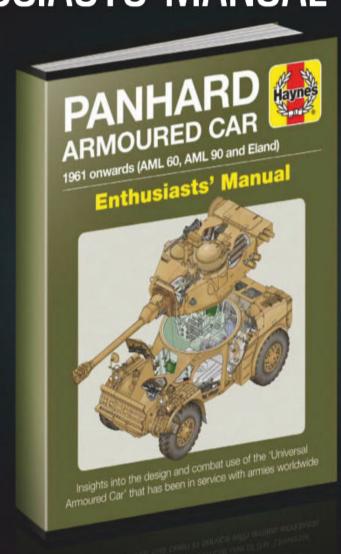
The Panhard Armoured Car



The simplicity of the design allowed for easy maintenance and the ability to operate under a wide range of conditions. Its heavy weaponry even allowed this pocket Hercules to go toeto-toe with main battle tanks – and win.

As a Haynes Manual, the book follows their winning formula of mixing technical details with military history, supported by a down-to-earth approach and the sort of personal accounts that put you right in the action. Starting with a history of the development of the type, the book then provides a chapter on the car in French service, a detailed anatomical study of the vehicle, descriptions of the main variants, and then a further detailed technical chapter on how to restore a Panhard, based on the author's own projects.

The book concludes with a lengthy section detailing each of the main overseas operators and their service with the type, and finally a chapter on the 'Eland in Combat', which delves into six engagements fought by the South African Defence Forces in Angola in 1975. Well-written, it is also superbly illustrated throughout. **SH**



FIGHTING THE WAR ON TERROR GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORIST UNITS AND THEIR ACTIONS

A BOOK THAT PROMISES AN INTIMATE VIEW INSIDE THE WORLD OF COUNTER-TERRORISM, BUT FALLS SHORT

Author: Judith Grohmann Publisher: Pen & Sword Price; £19.99

An interesting look into a selection of police and anti-terrorist actions over recent decades could have been a useful primer into the global 'war on terror', but falls some way short of its stated goals.

First, the title of the book is itself misleading. The phrase 'war on terror' is linked firmly with events in the 21st century, the targeted campaign against organised terrorist entities such as al-Qaeda. Judith Grohmann chooses to start her story much earlier, with

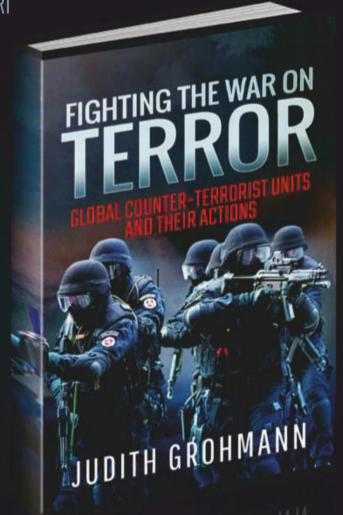
POLICE

North Penn Tactical
Response Team of
Montgomery County,
Pennsylvania, practicing
Cellular Team Tactics

anti-IRA operations in 1996, a bomber in France in 1993, hostage takers in Belgium in 1989 and others. There is no doubt that such operations are important pieces in the story of the fight against terrorism, but.

Perhaps most disappointing is that the book promises an intimate, behind-the-scenes look into counter-terrorist units across the world, mentioning the unprecedented access granted to the author. Such access is barely hinted at during the simple restating of events for each anti-terrorist action. There are no in-depth interviews with the security personnel involved.

A promise to explain what the work of counter-terrorist units "really involves, their most dangerous missions, and the physical and mental training required for them to perform these high-risk operations" is limited to a brief introductory section where random topics are dealt with in one or two paragraphs each. The result is a book that feels a little disjointed and does not appear to make full use of the access granted to the author. It remains interesting for its consideration of various terrorist acts over recent years, but readers are left to draw their own inferences. **DS**





THE PHARAOH'S TREASURE

AN EXAMINATION OF PAPER'S ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF CIVILISATION

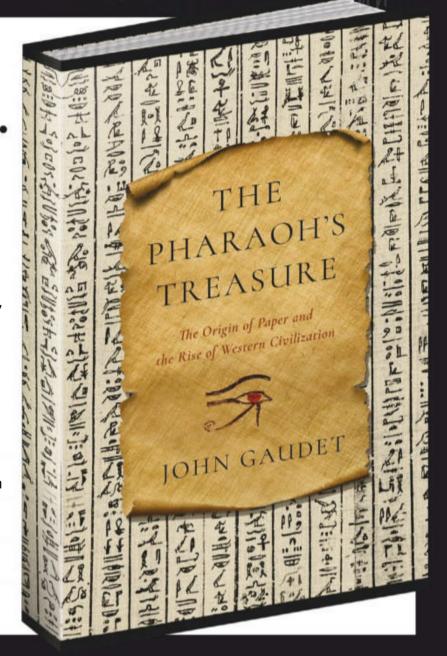
Author John Gaudet Publisher Amberley Publishing Price £16.99

In The Pharaoh's Treasure: The Origins Of Paper And The Rise Of Western Civilization, John Gaudet sets out to examine the history of human communication. More specifically, he recreates a world thousands of years ago in which rock paintings and carved tablets gradually give way to papyrus paper, a medium that revolutionised communication.

Gaudet provides a history of papyrus and its successors, from its earliest days and uses to modern paper production and beyond, that to a world in which electronic communication is becoming more and more prevalent. It is a story that travels the world and the millennia, witnessing the rise and fall of empires, the benefits and pitfalls of technological advancements and brings to life the march of progress that eventually ended the dominance of papyrus.

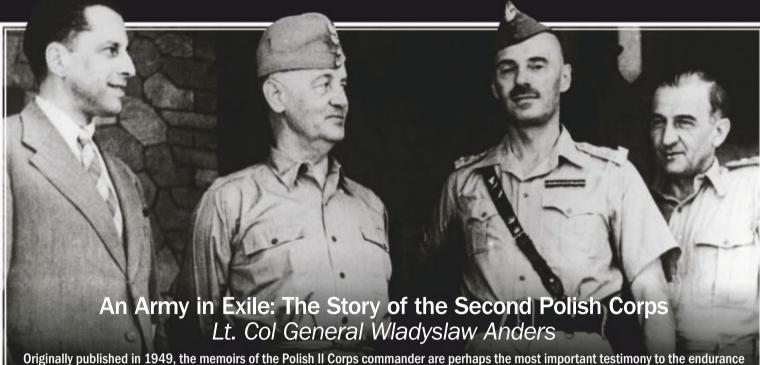
Yet this isn't simply a history of a medium, but of the world itself. Gaudet has a clear and engaging understanding of the intrinsic links between communication and the march of civilisation, and ably demonstrates how something so ubiquitous as paper played its part in the world we know today. He brings the ancient world vividly back to life, and it's a real pleasure to learn about not only how ancient documents were created, but how they were preserved and cared for too.

The Pharaoh's Treasure is an entertaining read and Gaudet's enthusiasm for his subject is infectious. He turns a topic that might have proved rather dry into a tale of adventure and achievement, filled with irresistible asides. **5/5**



ANDERS ARM

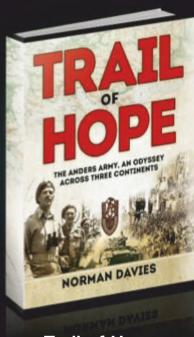
From occupation and captivity to retribution on the frontline, the story of the Polish II Corps was for a long time forgotten by mainstream histories



Left: Count
Thaddee De
Romer, General
Wladyslaw
Sikorski, General
Wladyslaw Anders
and General
Dywizji Tadeusz
Klimecki

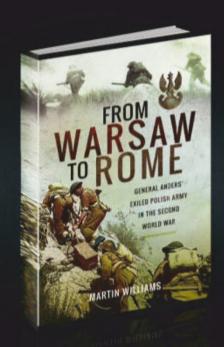
e: Getty

Originally published in 1949, the memoirs of the Polish II Corps commander are perhaps the most important testimony to the endurance and sacrifice of the men he led. Spanning from the original formation of the Corps in Moscow, 1942, Anders recounts the long journey towards the west, including the Poles' significant participation in the North Africa and Italy campaigns. Anders also details the tragic post-war betrayal, as he and is men were forced to remain exiled, with their homeland remaining in the clutches of the USSR.



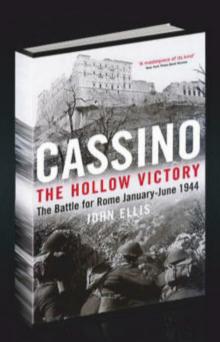
Trail of Hope:
The Anders Army, An
Odyssey Across Three
Continents
Norman Davies

Historian Professor Norman Davies applied years of in-depth research to meticulously recount the story of the Polish II Corps. As well as the military campaigns of Anders's men, Davies also details the experience of civilians, and also Wojtek the bear.



From Warsaw to Rome: General Anders' Exiled Polish Army in the Second World War Martin Williams

Drawing from previously undiscovered archive documents, Williams unveils the often strained diplomatic manoeuvres necessary by the British and exiled Polish governments to achieve the Polish army's freedom.



Cassino The Hollow Victory: The Battle for Rome, January-June, 1944 John Ellis

With extensive use of personal diaries and first-hand accounts, this work describes the more chaotic and blundering aspects of the campaign to conquer Monte Cassino, as the multi-national invasion force struggled to swiftly overcome the German defences – prolonging the campaign for months.



The Eagle Unbowed:
Poland and the Poles in
the Second World War
Halik Kochanski

Although the invasion of Poland was the spark that plunged western Europe into war in 1939, the fate of the Poles during and after the conflict has been left out of most mainstream histories. Kochanski redresses the balance with this powerful exploration of the Polish experience of the war.

S U B S C R I B E R E X C L U S I V E

History of War subscribers have the exclusive chance to win five quality titles

ince the first Owner's Workshop Manual (the Austin Healey 'Frogeye' Sprite, 1966) iconic publisher Haynes has applied its meticulous, technical and in-depth format to a whole new range of topics. As

well as aviation, space travel and even scifi, the realms of military history have also received the Haynes treatment. Everything from the Mary Rose to the Tiger Tank has been broken down by renowned experts into accessible, engrossing detail.

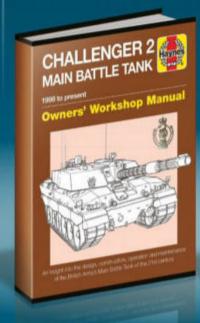
This issue, **History of War** subscribers have the exclusive chance to win this incredible book bundle of five titles, which add up to a combined total prize value of £120.98. Simply visit HistoryAnswers.co.uk to enter, and have your Subscriber ID ready.

For years the RAF's iconic Vulcan bomber was the centre of Britain's nuclear deterrent. This manual details jet bomber's operational history, takes a close-up look at its construction and reveals what it took to fly and maintain the mighty V-bomber.



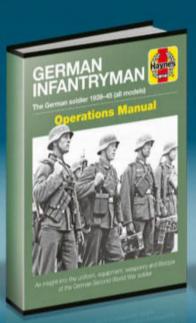
CHALLENGER 2 MAIN BATTLE TANK

Author Dick Taylor gives authoritative insight into the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the British Army's main battle tank of the early 21st century. He also details the Challenger's service in Iraq in 2003 and the instrumental role it played in the early capture of Basra by British Forces.



GERMAN INFANTRYMAN MANUAL

During WWII some 13 million men served in the German army. In this manual author Simon Forty looks in detail at the daily experiences of the German soldier, his life in training and in the field, his weapons, uniform and accoutrements, as well as a guide to the tactics applied in combat.



BLACKBURN BUCCANEER 1958-94

Designed as a Royal Navy carrier-borne aircraft, the Blackburn/ **BAe Buccaneer later** went on to serve with the RAF and the South African Air Force. Tasked with delivering nuclear weapons and conventional ordnance from carriers, the Navy transferred its Buccaneers to the RAF in 1969.



When Charles Lindbergh landed near Paris on 21 May 1927, less than 34 hours after his departure from New York, he became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. This manual relates the story of this epic flight, as well as the design and construction of Lindbergh's Spirit of St Louis.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE EXTENSIVE RANGE OF HAYNES TITLES, PLEASE VISIT: WWW.HAYNES.CO.UK

FOR A CHANCE TO WIN THIS HAYNES BOOK BUNDLE, SIMPLY VISIT:

By taking part in this competition, you agree to be bound by the terms and conditions below and the competition rules: www.futureplc.com/competition-rules/. Entries must be submitted to via the form at www.historyanswers.co.uk. Competition closes at 00.00 GMT on 18.04.19. Late or incomplete entries will be disqualified. Open to all History of War magazine subscribers who are residents of the UK and are 18 years and over, except employees of Future Publishing Limited ("Future") and Haynes. Entries limited to one per individual. The winner(s) will be drawn at random from all valid entries received and shall be notified by email. Future reserves the right to substitute any product with an alternative product of equivalent value. The prize is nontransferable and non-refundable. There is no cash alternative. Void where prohibited by law.

DISCOVER THE STORY OF THE PEOPLE, PLANES AND MISSIONS OF THE RAF

From its genesis in the horrors of the First World War to the infamous Battle of Britain of the Second World War, through to the lifesaving missions carried out in today's trouble zones, this book looks at the men, women and aircraft at the heart of the RAF



Ordering is easy. Go online at:

FUTURE www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk

Or get it from selected supermarkets & newsagents

GREATES HISTORIANS DELIVER THEIR VERDICT **AND ARMOURED** INNOVATIONS

NEXT MONTH



Editorial

Editor-in-Chief Tim Williamson timothy.williamson@futurenet.com

Senior Designer Curtis Fermor-Dunman

Features Editor Tom Garner

Production Editor Tim Empey

Senior Art Editor Duncan Crook

Contributors

Marianna Bukowski, Martyn Conterio, Stuart Hadaway, Manuel Martorell, Miguel Miranda, Andrew Roy Saunders, David Smith, Jules Stewart, William Welsh

Photography

Alamy, The Art Agency, Battlefield Design, Rocio Espin, Mary Evans, Getty, Osprey Publishing, Alex Pang, Shutterstock All copyrights and trademarks are recognised and respected

Advertising

Media packs are available on request Commercial Director Clare Dove clare.dove@futurenet.com

Regional Advertising Director Mark Wright mark.wright@futurenet.com

Advertising Manager Toni Cole toni.cole@futurenet.com

Media Sales Executive Jagdeep Maan jagdeep.maan@futurenet.com

International

History of War is available for licensing. Contact the International department to discuss partnership opportunities International Licensing Director Matt Ellis

matt.ellis@futurenet.com

Subscriptions

 $\label{lem:email} Email\ enquiries\ \textbf{contact@myfavouritemagazines.co.uk}$ UK orderline & enquiries 0344 848 2852

Overseas order line and enquiries +44 (0) 344 848 2852 Online orders & enquiries www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk Head of subscriptions Sharon Todd

Circulation

Head of Newstrade Tim Mathers

Production

Head of Production Mark Constance Production Project Manager Clare Scott Advertising Production Manager Joanne Crosby Digital Editions Controller Jason Hudson Production Manager Nola Cokely

Management

Chief Content Officer Aaron Asadi Commercial Finance Director Dan Jotcham Group Content Director Paul Newman Managing Director Alastair Lewis Head of Art & Design Greg Whittaker

Printed by William Gibbons & Sons Ltd

Distributed by Marketforce, 5 Churchill Place, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5HU www.marketforce.co.uk Tel: 0203 787 9060

We are committed to only using magazine paper which is derived from $% \left\{ 1,2,...,n\right\}$ responsibly managed, certified forestry and chlorine-free manufacture. The paper in this magazine was sourced and produced from sustainable managed forests, conforming to strict environmental and socioeconomic standards. The manufacturing paper mill holds full FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certification and accreditation

All contents @ 2019 Future Publishing Limited or published under licence. All rights reserved. No part of this magazine may be used, stored, transmitted or reproduced in any way without the prior written permission of the publisher. Future Publishing Limited (company number 2008885) is registered in England and Wales. Registered office: Quay House, The Ambury, Bath BAI 1UA. All information contained in this publication is for information only and is, as far as we are aware, correct at the time of going to press. Future cannot accept any responsibility for errors or inaccuracies in such information. You are advised to contact manufacturers and retailers directly with regard to the price of products/services referred to in this publication. Apps and websites mentioned in this publication are not under our control. We are not responsible for their contents or any other changes or updates to them. This magazine is fully independent and not affiliated in any way with the

If you submit material to us, you warrant that you own the material and or have the necessary rights/permissions to supply the material and you automatically grant Future and its licensees a licence to publish your submission in whole or in part in any/all issues and/or editions of publications, in any format published worldwide and on associated websites, social media channels and associated products. Any material you submit is sent at your own risk and, although nor its employees, agents, subcontractors or licensees shall be liable for loss or damage. We assume all unsolicited material is for publication unless otherwise stated, and reserve the right to edit, amend, adapt all submissions





company quoted on the London Stock Exchange (symbol: FUTR) www.futureplc.com

Chief Executive **Zillah Byng-Thorne** Non-executive Chairman **Richard Huntingford** Chief Financial Officer Penny Ladkin-Brand

Tel +44 (0)1225 442 244



SRIOHN OORES PORKETAVATER

This timepiece was retrieved from the body of a British general who was killed in battle during the Peninsular War

Right: Moore was admired by his enemies including Napoleon who remarked, "His talents and firmness alone saved the British Army from destruction; he was a brave soldier, an excellent officer, and a man of talent" fter Sir Arthur Wellesley and other generals were recalled to Britain following the Convention of Cintra, Lieutenant General Sir John Moore took command of British forces in the Iberian Peninsula. Moore was a popular military reformer who was regarded as a relatively humane commander by his troops.

The British advanced deep into Spain in late 1808 and Moore's intention was to link up with Spanish forces against the French. Nevertheless Napoleon I invaded with 200,000 men and captured Madrid. Moore's army was forced to retreat in horrendous winter conditions that included foul weather, frequent skirmishing and long marches. The British soldiers were weakened by hunger and cold but Moore was able to maintain their morale.

After withdrawing to the northern Spanish port of Corunna the British prepared to evacuate but a French force led by Marshal Soult attacked them. Moore fought a skilful rearguard action on 16 January 1809 that prevented the French from attacking the embarking army but he was mortally wounded by cannon shot. He lived long enough to learn the battle had been won and some of his last words were, "I hope my country will do me justice!"

This gold watch was found on Moore's body after his death before he was buried in the ramparts of Corunna.

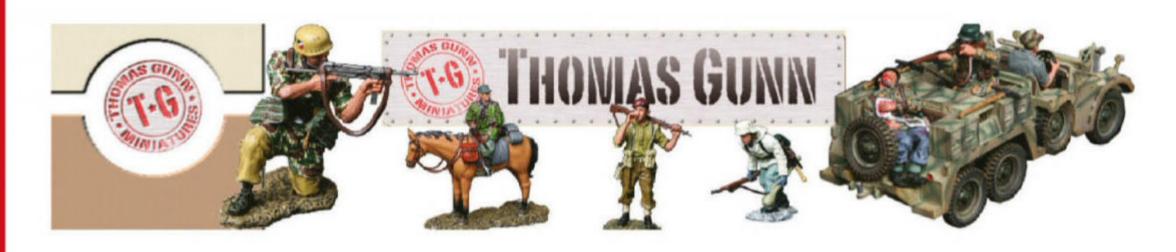
"HE WAS A BRAVE SOLDIER, AN EXCELLENT OFFICER, AND A MAN OF TALENT"

- Napoleon Bonaparte

ARMY MUSEUM

This watch was manufactured in London and is hallmarked between 1805-06

Sir John Moore's watch is held in the collections of the National Army Museum in Chelsea, London. For more information visit: nam.ac.uk





JUNKERS D.1 FIGHTER



ALBATROS W.4 SEAPLANE



FW Ta 152 FIGHTER



A-26 INVADER

WWW.TOMGUNN.CO.UK

EMAIL:WELCOME@TOMGUNN.CO.UK

AVAILABLE DIRECT FROM US AND FROM ALL GOOD QUALITY SOLDIER STOCKISTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

THOMAS GUNN MINIATURES

UNIT 21, DEVERILL ROAD TRADING ESTATE, SUTTON VENY, WARMINSTER, WILTSHIRE, BA12 7BZ

TEL: 01985 840539



Y FOR FREE AT WARTHUNDER.COM.

















